

# In Spite of Everything GOVERNMENT ELECTED!

THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF BRITAIN WAS ELECTED BY BALLOT ON FEBRUARY 28 IN AN ELECTION BROUGHT ABOUT, SO IT IS CLAIMED, BY THE MINERS' STRIKE. A New York paper once featured an imaginary headline 'ARCHDUKE FERDINAND STILL ALIVE - WORLD WAR ONE A MISTAKE'. In the same way (and in other ways) the election can be held to be founded on a mistake. The mistake that the miners' wage-level on which their pre-strike claim was based, was erroneously calculated (by both the Conservative and the Labour governments). However, there is no umpire or ombudsman to appeal to so we must put up with the government that chance rather than sound judgement has bequeathed us.

The miners' wage claim has departed into the province of higher mathematics and the relativities seem at times to be those of Einstein rather than Ezra. In fact the late govern-

ment seem to have given the impression of men seeking to extract themselves from a web of their own making, in their efforts to meet the miners' claim without breaking their own economic laws.

The present Government, like all governments is conservative (in the factual meaning of the word). It will seek to conserve, to hold on to its power (which it represents as the country's - or "ours"). It will seek to maintain the status quo in a changing world. To do this it will compromise, temporize - in short, sell out those very principles on which it has just been elected.

A party has just been elected to office. We cannot finally say 'to power' since power ultimately comes from the people and from other sources (it was the denial of power to the Government by the miners that ostensibly led to the election). This par-

ty, in its composition and caucuses is self-governing and is amenable to no pressure (save the concessions to public opinion) from those who voted for its nominees as the voter's representative.

The issues in the election were highly familiar, the cost of living, industrial strife, nationalization and all three parties concurred on many points. Questions of immigration, foreign policy, the nuclear deter-

...continued on P. 7



# NOTHING HAS CHANGED ...

THE DISCREPANCIES which have been found in the miners' earnings have now been calculated as £3. It appears that these figures were known at the time of the Wilberforce Report. Corrected figures now show that the miners' average wages have been lower than those in the manufacturing industries. These discrepancies came out at the Pay Board's inquiry into relativities. But really, creating a system of relativities is a way of getting the government off the hook. Any group of workers can make comparisons with others and demand increases and bring themselves higher up the wages league table. No doubt every group of workers can make out a good case for an increase in wages by using this method.

However, in the present case of the miners, it does now give the Pay Board an added reason for an award outside of Phase 3. It also allows the government to save face, but it does not explain why it wasn't discussed before and why a general election was necessary when this

really "special case" could have been made earlier. What has been obvious for a long time is that Mr. Heath has gambled on the miners' dispute to give him and his party another term of office. It looks as though it may pay off, although only by a slim margin. In fact his appeal to the British public has failed to stampede them into giving him the massive support he expected against the "extremists".

As anarchists we do not think it will make a lot of difference who is elected to power. But at the same time we think that the last 3½ years of Tory rule has been the most reactionary of any government since the thirties. There is however only one answer to government and that is revolution. Although we support the miners' wage claim, the winning of the claim will not change the economic, social or political position of the miner under capitalism. Mr. Heath has achieved one thing; he has lowered the temperature by calling a general election. Everyone and everything is mar-

king time and direct action has been pushed into the background.

Anarchists, unlike the socialists and communists, have not subscribed to the theory that increasing misery makes people revolutionary. On the contrary, they could turn to a more authoritarian solution. What we claim is that people's horizons grow wider with each step they make. This does not mean just financial advancement but as wages increase a realisation that this changes nothing as far as control over what we produce, how our communities are run and the whole quality of our life.

We are in fact still going to the rich man's table asking for a few more crumbs from the large rich cake which our labour has created. Crumbs can always be given out in such quantities as the system can afford, but we have to demand and take the whole cake and share it out to satisfy everyone's needs. A general election will not do this, but a revolution can.

P.T.



# HELMETED VOTING EXTREMISTS

TODAY, 28 FEBRUARY, working people all over the country are being asked by the Conservative Party, the Labour Party and the Liberal Party to allow themselves to be exploited, robbed, taxed, repressed, brainwashed and governed in the name of Democracy.

Unfortunately, a large majority of workers have not yet understood that by voting they are authorising the State to run their lives for them and giving, by so doing, continuity to sufferings, injustices and exploitation of man by man at home and in areas of the world where British neo-colonialism still controls the political and economic lives of millions of subjects.

It is in part our fault if the voting people of this country do not know better ways of running their daily lives without having to pass into the hands of professional politicians the power that exists in each of us: the power to produce, govern and distribute the resources of the land and industry and also the power of reasoning in humanitarian and egalitarian terms which would make it possible for industrial, farming and intellectual workers to set up a free and communistic society in Britain.

But if we have failed in our propaganda against the existence of the State and in favour of an anarchist society, others on the Left, who dare to call themselves "communists" or "revolutionaries", have in the past and are today betraying the class which they claim to represent, urging workers to vote and to rely on a parliamentary system which is in part the cause of our social ailments. So today, 28 February, forty-one candidates from the Communist Party, 9 from the so-called Workers Revolutionary Party, 4 from the Communist Party of England (M.-L.) and 3 from the International Marxist Group will canvas on behalf of their own elitist and authoritarian organisations in order to obtain, from workers, power and political status in a capitalist Parliament. The International Socialists are running around postering and leafleting as unpaid servants of the Labour "left wing" candidates committed to "socialist" policies and the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist Leninist) is still organising itself in another Revolutionary Party, so revolutionary that at the next general elections it will probably have the strength to present a few candidates to Parliament. Knowing that I should be more respectful of

the human efforts put into this dramatic general election, I confess that at least one candidate deserves my trust as an anarchist. He is Mr. B. S. Chahal, a Sikh from Southall, candidate of the TURBAN COMMITTEE AGAINST HELMETS. Without having read a single line of his electoral propaganda, I know what "comrade" Chahal wants. Just his religious freedom respected and the repeal of that law which forces individuals like him, who like to go around riding bikes and wearing turbans, to buy and wear expensive, unhygienic and anti-religious helmets. Long live the "Turban Committee Against Helmets."

Claude.



"WHICH WILL BRING BACK TOILET ROLLS...???"

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Messrs. Heath and Wilson are reported to use executive jets in their election journeys. The charter price is about £250 per flying hour and they use about 300 gallons of fuel (per hour).

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Mr. Tariq Ali said that the I.M.G. had deliberately chosen seats with strong Labour majorities to avoid the danger of a split vote allowing the Tories to get in.

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THIRTY YEARS AFTER THE ATOMIC BOMB TESTS IN NEW MEXICO THE SITE IS STILL REGARDED AS RADIO-ACTIVE AND VISITORS ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO STAY FOR NINETY MINUTES.

Mr. Wilson, going to appear on a Commercial Television programme, walked through a picket line of make-up girls on unofficial strike. Mr. Wilson appeared in his true colours without make-up.

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## THE TORTURE OF HOPE

AS WE GO TO PRESS there is yet no news whether the Spanish Cabinet has confirmed the death sentence on our comrade Salvador Puig Antich. Such is the delicate mechanism of Spanish power politics, the longing of Spain for 'respectability' and recognition by the EEC, and a totalitarian love of the exercise of the power of a hope to be fulfilled or denied. The whims of a despotic regime are as much a symptom of their malaise as are the rigid conformities to absolute legality of a democratic regime.

Meanwhile we wait :  
but not alone.

The same whims in respect of checks, balances, hopes, fears and ambitions which instituted the trifling relaxations, recently announced, of the Franco totalitarian rule, have put through a counter-balancing decree. According to The Guardian (Feb. 25) "The Spanish Government has quietly sneaked through a new decree which grants the security police immunity from prosecution when they shoot citizens suspected of involvement in subversive activities". (our emphasis).

"The decree," says the Guardian "was enacted on February 12th after the 'liberation of the regime' speech." It was, says the Guardian "reportedly introduced to cover the two known cases of fatal shootings by trigger-happy police in the tense days after the assassination of...Admiral Carrero Blanco". (These incidents were reported in FREEDOM).

The Guardian concludes: "The police immunity law poses the gravest potential threat to democratic opponents of the regime since the days of the civil war. A number of extreme right-wing neo-Nazi elements have infiltrated the security police, a fact that became evident last spring when policemen defied the law to demonstrate in the capital after the murder of a sub-inspector by an alleged Trotskyist group on May day."

"Now the police know that the 'shot while resisting arrest' excuse will not even involve them in disciplinary

action. It could almost be interpreted as permission to murder for motives of personal or political revenge. The measure sets at risk the promises of reform by Senor Arias (Prime Minister) who was formerly the police chief."

\* \* \*

It will be recalled that Salvador Puig killed a policeman in inadmissible self-defence.

\* \* \*

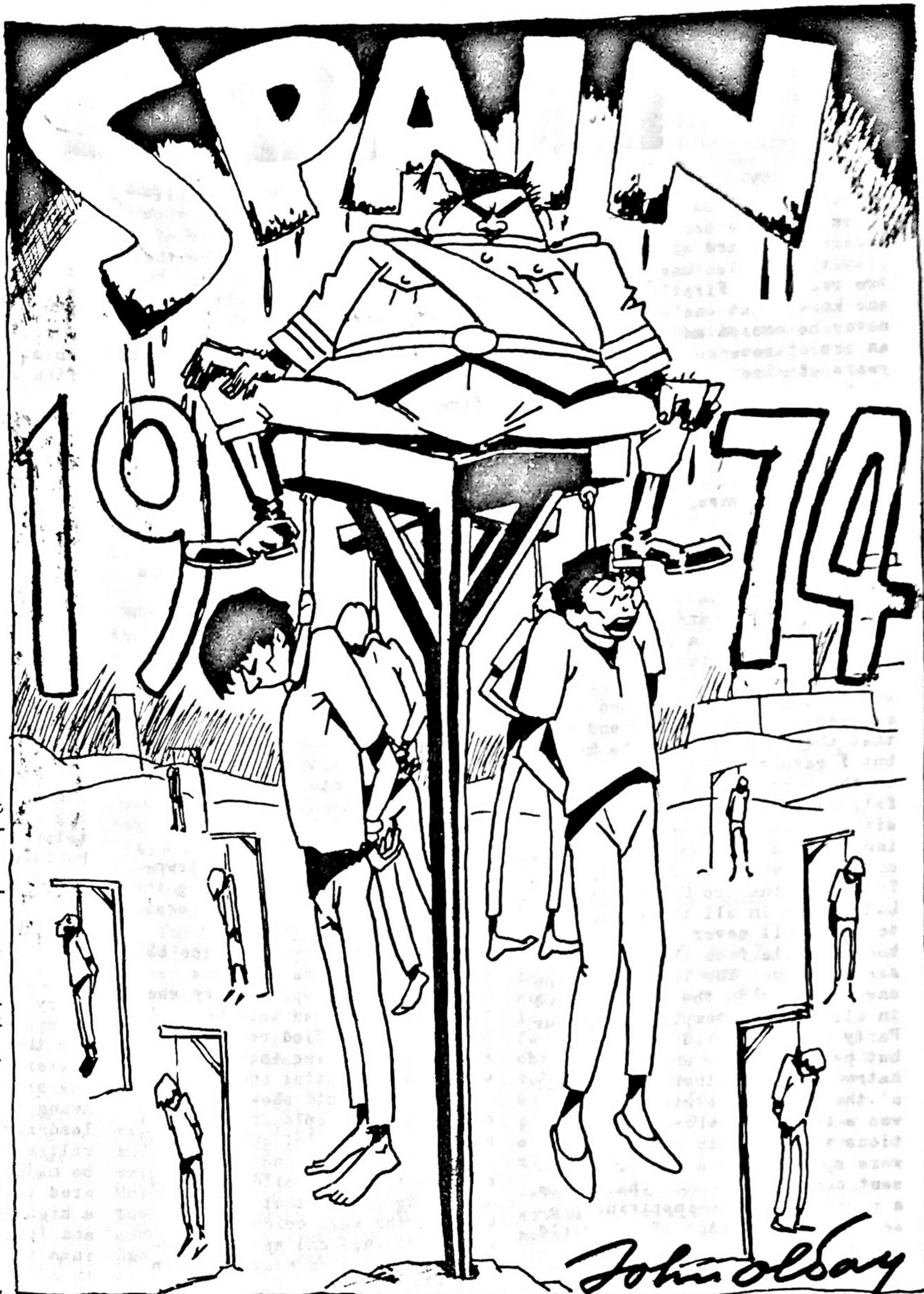
Pickets have been staged outside the Spanish Embassy (24 Belgrave Square, London SW1) with varying success and some public support. It is request-

ed in view of the abruptly callous nature of such regimes that if news comes through confirming the death sentence, comrades should go immediately to the Spanish Embassy. It would be more convenient if comrades provide their own placards. provincial comrades could picket Spanish consulates.

J.R.

Reminder: for postcards, address  
Salvador Puig Antich,  
X. Apartado Oficial de Correos  
No. 20  
Carcel Modelo, Barcelona.

Telegrams: Senor Arias Navarro  
President of the Government,  
Madrid.





# RING THEM BELLS!

A CASUAL CONVERSATION in a street and one allows oneself to be nominated as a member of the Managerial Board of the local primary school. One agrees for two reasons. Firstly because one knows that one's name will never be chosen and secondly as an act of revenge for all the years of misery and the floggings that one experienced within that school and because as a fourteen year old child one was kicked out of the school in the final few weeks because, to quote the words of the enraged head teacher, "I am sick of flogging you."

And then from ILEA comes the plastic brief case, the books and the two letters stating that I am hooked onto a four-year stint as one of the managerial board of Addison Gardens School. All my life I have avoided committees, believing then and now that they are things to be fought but I gave my word and now I sit in the school staff room with my fellows in authority and I quietly sit out the first meeting gauging them in relation to the situation in which we find ourselves. There are the two Conservative Ladies who in all those meetings to date will never speak, the honest prole from the Parents' Association. The Town Clerk who one feels holds the entire board in clerical contempt. The Labour Party caucus united in nought but party loyalty and a mutual hatred of each other, and a Will o' the Wisp who stated that he was a rebel and whose contributions in contained rebellion were spread over a number of absent committees; the chairwoman, a woman of an awe-inspiring presence and knowledge of the world of inter-bureaucracies with a modulated voice and a searching eye that killed all opposition with a look and a wealth of reminiscences from a schooldays that the children of this school would never know. It was the headmaster that I found so hard to fit into my mental patterns for he was tall, grey haired, extremely handsome, rather shy and on first meetings appeared an absolute and complete incompetent. But meeting by meeting one realised that one does not rise in the wages world of the educational racket by shy incompetence and one watched him manipulating this hand-picked board with all the ease of the politician to the manner born as he got his cooker for the staff room, nominated his own teaching appointments, and all with the charm and grace of a Mississippi river boat gambler taking us Northern trash to the cleaners.

But it was all unimportant un-

til the interviewing of applicants for a teaching post took place and one felt a sense of shame sitting there before these unfortunate individuals as they were forced to lie their piece for the job. I took no part in it for I now realised that the board did not understand their role, for it was not to hire and fire these unfortunates but to offer them a defence should they and the children need it and if the board sat in judgement then they could never be expected to be called upon to protect those who believed that they needed that help in the face of faceless authority. It was at the second meeting that I made my voice heard in a somewhat muddled protest over the local Educationally Subnormal School, arguing from personal observation that most of the children there appeared to be coloured and that to me it appeared to be a dumping ground for the primary school's rejects. There was much emotional protest from the headmaster and I was told of the training THEY received at the ESN school and the chairwoman silenced me by informing the board that she had made a personal tour of a neighbouring school in the company of the ESN headmaster and that she was overwhelmingly impressed by what the headmaster had told her. I made my undignified rearguard stand by muttering that every workhouse, hospital and concentration camp could show a record of visits by people of good will and high principle, but I stated in a rising voice that I still claimed that the children I saw shambling out of that school were in the main coloured, poorly clothed and appeared unable to read when most children were leaving the illustrated comics for the News of the World.

But the board ignored me and passed on to the fire drill and the headmaster casually mentioned that there was no fire alarm in the annex used for teaching children and should the school catch fire the only warning would be the sending of a messenger to the annex. In one last appeal to humanitarian reason I stated that something should be done about this and a few heads nodded and the meeting was over. I was now a minority of one and in disgrace as "a bloody nuisance" and when I attended the third meeting the chairwoman gave me the look one reserves for a drunken butler. But I was determined to make my stand on the frying of small children and when 'other business' came up I

hammered the point and refused to be silenced. There was an annex within spitting distance of where we sat, it was above the carpentry shop and there was no fire alarm. But this time I had done my homework and hammered in the point that in 1973 in six months 60 schools caught fire at a cost of no lives but £4,371,000 damage and that 25 children died in a Continental fire because among other things there was no fire alarm. The board was now worried and a member suggested that it should be placed on the next month's agenda, but I now knew that I was right and waved the suggestion aside. The headmaster was obviously worried and my battle was now with the clerk of the meeting for he saw across the table simply another bloody nuisance interfering with the smooth running of his ordered office.

One should never make a protest without offering a solution and I demanded that the following day the headmaster should telephone the head of the GLC building department and demand immediate work on this absent fire alarm but the headmaster shied like a wounded deer and I made, and made it again, the point that if a single child was hurt in a fire in this school every one of us would have to accept the responsibility, for now the absent fire alarm was a matter of public concern. It was at this point that the board swung into reverse under the leadership of the chairwoman who realised that a stand now had to be made, and the clerk was ordered to take immediate action at a high level the following day and I watched it being entered into the meeting's record. And to add salt to the wound I pointed out that leaders of the black community had now complained that too many of their children were unjustifiably sent to ESN schools. It was a small and unimportant victory and the price was to accept that one was a 'bloody nuisance' and would never be called upon to dine or wine with the Mayor of Ham-smith or his Clerk. But the day following that managerial meeting the impossible happened and a primary school but a few street away caught fire and a "grim faced" headmaster was recalled from lunch to watch firemen pumping water into a fire-gutted classroom.

If there is anything to be learned from this it is never to be conned onto a committee --but once on then damn acceptance and popularity and make it your only duty to defend those who cannot defend themselves,



# CLASS WAR

THE FINE TUBES STRIKE by Tony Beck. Stage I (45p)  
THE TUPAMAROS by Alain Labrousse. Pelican (40p)  
CLASS WAR COMIX, cover price 20p

THE FINE TUBES strike started on June 15, 1970 and ended 3 years later on June 15, 1973. It is the longest strike on record in this country and ended in a defeat for the strikers.

The American owners of Fine Tubes took over the firm in 1953, but left the daily management to British personnel. As specialists in "high-quality tubing for a large range of products, from hypodermic needles to hydraulic tubing for the Concorde, and nuclear fuel cases" they had a near monopoly.

The book traces the struggle to unionise the factory. The attempts by management to undermine the union organisation, and their offensive against the elected shop stewards. But what should have been an easy victory for the workers turned into a long struggle ending in defeat -- because the two biggest unions in the country, the Transport and General Workers Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers failed to give their members the necessary support. Even though management kept some production going it is obvious that if a full blacking campaign had taken place, Fine Tubes would have been defeated. As it was, Rolls Royce, one of Fine Tubes customers, was being bailed out by the government, saving the jobs of thousands of workers who would otherwise have been laid off if the blacking had been effective. The same would have happened with Concorde. Tony Beck says that the Concorde "programme was in any case under government scrutiny, and its future appeared to hang in the balance for some time. Again, the unions would have been presented as tipping the balance against continuation of the project if they held it up with a blacking campaign".

be it in the use of a makeshift annex or children, coloured or nay, dumped into the ESN or 'barmy school' as the brighter children brutally call them, and for my fellow-members of the managerial board thank your gods for a lunatic minority on your board for if Addison Gardens Primary School goes up in flames and some child fried in that annex we all now have our recorded alibi.

Arthur Moyse.

And so a basic trade union issue was lost. The wage increase & proper union recognition could have been won if the officials of unions had done a job of work. But this strike was allowed to die rather than become an embarrassment to the unions and give political capital to the Tory government.

The story of this long strike shows how workers without assistance from their unions gained considerable rank and file support, and shows other workers valuable lessons for future struggles.

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THE NAME TUPAMAROS comes from the Indian chief of Pampamarca in Peru in the eighteenth century, Jose Gabriel Condorcanqui Noguera, Tupac Amaru. This chief organised a rebellion against the Spanish colonists. They kidnapped and executed Arriaga, the "tyrannical and bloody representative of Spanish power".

Alain Labrousse's book is an excellent account of background and social history of Uruguay and the activities of the modern Tupamaros. These urban guerrillas, like their predecessors, are not just a movement of rebellion but have a political programme. Their extra-parliamentary protest has been a real challenge to the authorities.

The book describes the activities of the Tupamaros and shows how well organised they were, with the capture on 8 October, 1969 of Pando, a small town of 20,000 people to the kidnapping and execution of Dan Mitrione in August, 1970. Later they supported the Frente Amplio, or Borad Front, which was a coalition of seventeen political groups of the "left". However they still maintained that they had no dather in parliamentary elections as they did not "lead the revolution". This, as Richard Gott points out in the last chapter of Alain Labrousse's book, was a comparable attitude to that of the Chilean MIR towards the Unidad Popular in the year before the Chilean elections. Unlike the Unidad Popular, the Frente Amplio "came a poor third".

However, the Tupamaros continued with their bank robberies, take-overs of radio stations and the well known kidnapping of the British Ambassador, Geoffrey Jackson. The new president, Juan Maria Bordaberry,

gained emergency powers from the Congress and declared the existence of "a state of internal war". This brought an end to all civil rights and enabled the authorities to use the army against the Tupamaros. They received a number of setbacks and many of those captured were tortured. The Tupamaros in 1972 changed their strategy and went back to the countryside from where the movement first started.

Unlike other Latin American countries, Uruguay seemed the last place for an urban guerrilla movement to emerge. It had been compared to Switzerland and described as a "social democracy". But economic circumstances led to increases in the cost of living which were 20% between 1954 and 1961 but increased to 60% for the period 1961-7 and then to 136% in 1967. As with all capitalised economies, the working class were expected to make the necessary sacrifices, and from those struggles the Tupamaros were born.

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CLASS WAR COMIX, New Times is the first of a series of six comix "that deal with two basic problems that have always faced our society: how to change it and what to change it to". This comix covers Pete's dissatisfaction with the rural communi-

CLASS WAR COMIX, New Times is the first of a series of six comix "that deals with two basic problems that have always faced our society: how to change it and what to change it to". This first number is about a society of about 2,000 people living in a rural situation. "The social organisation is Anarchic".

This Comix covers Pete's dissatisfaction with the rural community and the reaction from the new ruling political party which threatens the freedom and social control that ordinary people have won. Other numbers, promised at eight-week periods, will continue to describe social organisation of the rural community but the last three will follow Pete who joins friends who are living on a huge housing estate in the city. Here he works in a factory and takes part in the struggles against the increasing power of the State and their militia.

While theis story follows what in reality could happen during a social revolution, the drawings have a negative look and the characters are rigid and wooden. However, don't be put off by this as for a cover price of 20p it is a worthwhile buy and an addition to anarchist propaganda.



# MORE NEWS FROM CHILE

FIVE MONTHS have passed since the coup in Chile, and, from a first glance at the US press, the junta is either alive and well or, at least, alive. But what is the real status of that gaggle of military puppets? Recent reports from Chile and Argentina indicate that the struggle against fascism continues.

Within Chile, stepped up agitation aimed at the military and at munitions factories is becoming a real problem for the junta. Each day sees an increase in the guerilla counter-offensive.

In Argentina, two periodicals\* both entitled Resistencia have begun publication, one from Mendoza, the other from Buenos Aires. In Buenos Aires, Resistencia has suggested that the structure of the resistance, especially MIR, is basically intact. Apparently, from world press reports, the immediate goal of the resistance is to gather arms, aid, dispersed comrades, and favourable world opinion to their side. Within a few months, probably spring or early summer, they will launch a massive guerilla counter-offensive.

The tyranny inside Chile continues as expected. Carlos Altamirano, Secretary-General of the Chile Socialist Party, claimed that there has been, since September, "more than 15,000 dead...30,000 political prisoners, 200,000 persons fired from their jobs, 25,000 expelled from the universities". Semana, a Venezuelan magazine, reports that executions occur with the same frequency as in the early days of the coup. Coupled with the economic tyranny, the junta has succeeded in creating more enemies inside Chile than it had bargained for.

In a letter to NICH (Non-Intervention in Chile), in Berkeley, California, from a source inside Chile, the economic panorama is, for workers and the poor, a never ending rainbow of dismal grey. Though Communists and other perverse authoritarian elements in the international Left movements may wring their bloody hands in joyous expectation of the impending economic collapse in Chile, the day-to-day lives of those intimately wrapped in the suffering are struggles for the basic necessities. In the letter to NICH, dire views of skyrocketing staple price increases, shopowners, merchants and manufacturers raising prices indiscriminately, galloping unem-

ployment and heavy-handed dictatorial practices open the reality of fascist Chile to the nubile eyes of innocent outsiders. The letter continues, "Chileans are being forced back to a diet of bread, noodles, onions and beans. Doctors... report mass malnutrition, while the problem of inadequate food, housing, clothing, and heating when winter comes will constitute an acute health hazard."

With a 50% decline in living standard in one month (one of the first months of the coup) strikes have begun. 85% of the bakeries in Santiago were shut down by strikers in early January. Few strikes have erupted, but the first, of subway construction workers, was brought to grief by the murder of 80-100 strikers by the army goons. To date, 5-15% of the factory work force has been discharged for political reasons. For office workers the percentage is higher. Also contributing to the chaos is the increasing number of professionals without work.

In all the confusion, thousands of comrades, fellow workers, and ex-government officials still fill the jails. Most have been tortured, some executed

("attempting to escape"). Comrades can give support to these prisoners by writing and demanding the release, safe passage, or "fair treatment" of prisoners. These letters, which will hopefully pressure the governmental goons, can be sent either to General Pinochet, Santiago, Chile, or to the nearest Chilean embassy. For US readers the address is: Chilean Embassy, 1736 Massachusetts Av., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. (In Britain: Embassy of Chile, 3 Hamilton Place, London, W.1). Also, support of local or international relief or resistance groups will help our comrades in their struggle of survival against the fascist terror.

Information in this article was lifted, distilled, or translated from NICH's excellent Chilean Newsletter, Resistencia (Buenos Aires), and from personal contacts and assorted world press sources. Dario McDarby.

\*Argentina also has an anarchist monthly: La Protesta, Casilla de Correo No. 24, Surcursal 39-B, Buenos Aires. Address of the Venezuelan periodical Ruta will be given next week. --Eds.

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### LETTER

#### CENTRE POINT

Dear Reader,

As a result of the Centre Point "Occupation" sixteen people are awaiting trial (March). They are on various charges including assaulting the police,

obstruction, and threatening behaviour.

We would like people who witnessed any arrests or the events leading up to arrests to get in touch with TIME OUT, Box HH 100. Photographs which document the street action would be appreciated.

We are appealing also to the Centre Point Occupation group itself, who called for a mass rally, but then left the street demonstration, to contribute to our high defence costs. All public contributions will be gratefully received, and should be made payable to: "Centre Point Demonstrators Fund" (TIME OUT, Box HH 100, 374 Grays Inn Road, London W.C.1.).

The Defence Committee for The Centre Point Demonstrators

Policemen in N. Ireland went on strike as regards escort and interrogation duties because the Emergency Provisions Act providing for trial without jury for certain "terrorist" offences did not exclude offences committed by policemen in the course of duty.

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Rod Caird, imprisoned for his part in the Cambridge Garden House Hotel demonstration, has written a book on his 12-month prison sentence in which he says: "It is impossible to find a single coherent reason for the existence of prisons which is not cast in doubt."



# 'THE BLOODY ASSIZES'

SINCE WE WROTE last week ("Freedom Fighters for All") the case has concluded at Winchester Crown Court of Michael Tristram (24) and Dafydd Ladd (23) for conspiring to trespass, damaging property, causing an explosion at Bristol and at Aldershot. They were given six and seven years' imprisonment respectively.

Long ago in British history (1685) after the Monmouth rebellion, Judge Jeffreys perpetuated his 'bloody assizes' where brutal sentences were handed out for taking part in the rebellion.

In the same way the quiet cathedral town of Winchester has gained notoriety for similar reasons. Arguably because of (a) its proximity to some of the offences and (b) its excellent security arrangements - court and jail being adjacent - it has been chosen as the venue of several important quasi-'terror' trials, e.g. the Aldershot bombing, the London car-bombs, sundry bank robberies and the current concern were all held at Winchester.

It would seem that the cachet of a Winchester trial has been sufficient to impress a cathedral town jury, not to speak of the judge, with the heinousness of all crimes tried at Winchester. Judges have in fact been known to confuse the nature of the crime they were trying. The description of both defendants as 'dangerous young men' does not seem to accord with the relative triviality of their crimes.

Viewing the sparseness of the evidence (or of the reporting) it seems little to go on (some of the evidence was gained by prison informers - always the most suspect source). The police - and the judge? - seemed to have been disturbed at the fact that they had not been able to establish how large the 'Freedom Fighters for All' was. This probably contributed to the severity of the sentences for if there's anything the law hates it's lack of co-operation.

Even if we disagreed with what the F.F.A. did (which we don't; their choice of targets was sound) we would not feel that a long prison sentence would serve even the State's purpose - certainly not society's. Two young men, no matter how 'dangerous' are unlikely to emerge from prison better citizens or even better men. The same applies to fu-

GOVERNMENT. . . contd. from P.1

rent' were soft-pedalled on all sides, as was the thorny question of Northern Ireland. Efforts were made to avoid the issue of the Common Market (all parties being split on this one) but Enoch Powell's eccentric intervention dragged the skeleton from the cupboard but this Government can be trusted to do nothing drastic about it. Questions of civil liberties and the erosion of individual freedom never raised their head save in the hypothetical 'Reds under the Bed' scare. The whole question of a revaluation of Britain's economy, ecology, agriculture, was ignored not only for its complex simplicity but because political victories can only be won by promising more of everything.

\* \* \* \*

THE PRESENT government was, when last in office, fully determined to regulate the bargaining power of the workers, hoping thereby to stem the inflation which is the logical consequence of a consumer-society. For this regulatory purpose it introduced complex systems of taxation (with even more complex evasion possibilities) which, being passed on to the consumer, only served to increase inflation.

From early days this Government and its party chiefs were involved in the European Economic Community or the Common Market. Admittedly, they were not enthusiastic about the terms of entry but one does not join a tennis club expecting to play bridge! At the same time they were never favourable to a referendum on the subject.

This Government has previously brought in legislation restricting immigration and cases of individual hardship have been met with the stock answer 'This is the law'.

The Foreign Policy of this Government has, since the decline of British power, been practi-

cally severe sentences on IRA bombers - even the deterrent effect does not work.

Certainly the authorities should abandon the usage of Winchester as a star blood-stained assize.

It may interest students of history to know that Judge Jeffreys died in imprisonment in the Tower of London. J.R.

We hope Dafydd Ladd and Michael Tristram will appeal, in which case no doubt money will be needed. As given in last week's issue, the defence committee is Bristol Committee for the Defence of Socialists, c/o 82 North Road, St. Andrews, Bristol 6.

ally non-existent and wherever it did exist has been a base real-politik in deference to the Americans' foreign policy, including their ill-starred venture in Vietnam. As for nuclear disarmament, one knows what this Government thinks about that.

We shall see what this Government does for the miners. Previously pits have been closed in the same way that railway lines have been axed, but due to oil shortage we have been promised a change.

Under previous Home Secretaries of the present ruling party injustice has been rife, and police power has grown. The standard excuse that the maintenance of law and order demands it has always been there, but the righting of the wrongs which have led hitherto peaceful citizens to demonstrate has rarely been thought of.

This Government, like the last, is concerned with expansion, with gigantic schemes regardless of their utility. Concorde, that fading hope, is one example but there is no grasping of the reality that Britain is no longer the world power she was and even by hanging on to the coat-tails of the EEC she can no longer live in the style to which she was accustomed.

As to the terrible problem of Ireland, it would seem that the shoddy compromises of Faulkner and Fitt will be all that can and will be done by governments who have lacerated this running sore for many years.

The breath of scandal and corruption has touched this government too, as is inevitable when the pleasures of power are tasted by weak and human men whom politics has elevated to the status of gods.

Things will change, only to remain the same. Whatever the results of the election, the people will lose. They will have to work, pay taxes and sometimes fight and die. Who won the election anyhow?

Jack Robinson.

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# In Brief

IN GRENADA, less than twelve hours after the granting of independence, the leader of the opposition, the New Jewel Movement, was arrested by the new army and charged with the illegal possession of arms and ammunition. Mr. Eric Gairy, the new Prime Minister, claims to have been appointed 'by the great, supreme architect of the universe'. There is a general strike on the island, calling for the disbanding of the secret police - called by Mr. Gairy 'volunteers for the protection of human rights'.

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The Conservation Society accused the political parties, trade unions and industry of failing to understand the real issues facing our society. It says that at the root of our problems is a world-wide growth of population and of demand for resources. The energy crunch, they state, is merely a symptom "We can," they say, "no longer hope to solve social problems and conflicts by increasing material consumption. It should now be obvious that a wiser use of materials, greater social equality, and the avoidance of

waste present far greater promise of progress."

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Burns international Security Services are selling the service of demonstrating the peril of letter and parcel bombs to business and industry. It will be recalled that Burns International were guarding Centre Point when it was occupied by temporary squatters. It can also be remembered that their illustrious American founder speaking of detectives (no doubt the private kind, of whom he had most experience) said "as a class, they are the biggest lot of blackmailing thieves that ever went unwhipped of justice".

\*\*\*

Conservative Central Office was unable to explain why a speech made by Enoch Powell in 1972 came to be released last week. The speech by Mr. Powell was in favour of the Industrial Relations Act and approved of curbs on inflation. The Guardian apologised for its error in making it appear that the Chancellor's remarks on the difficulties of food subsidies were made by Mr. Healey - Labour's Shadow Chancellor. The Labour Party, explains The Guardian, "is in favour of food subsidies". The Tory Government subsidized milk by making grants to farmers.

Contraceptives will be on sale in Ireland soon, the Irish government announced. The ban on advertising them will also be lifted.

Sancho Panza.

BRISTOL FRAME-UP DEFENCE FUND  
donations to Arthur, 19 Brigstock Road, Bristol 2

Meetings: London

Mon. 4th March "Lessons of the General Strike", Bob Dent (ORA) at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square W.C.1 small hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday 23 March "Race, IQ and the Class Society" at Polytechnic of Central London. Enquiries to Br. Soc. for Social Responsibility in Science, 9 Poland St W.1.

Alternate Sundays Hyde Park Anarchist Forum meets at Speakers' Corner at 1 p.m. Speakers, listeners, hecklers welcome.

TUCSON, ARIZONA:-

April 18, 19 & 20th. Conference on the Life, Literature & Cinema of B. Traven. Corres. to Leo L. Barrow, Dept. of Romance Langs., Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. 85721 (tel. (602)884-3123 : home (602)793-0789)

NEW YORK: LIBERTARIAN BOOK CLUB  
1974 LECTURES: Alternate Thursdays 7.30 p.m. at Workmen's Circle Center, 369 8th Avenue (SW corner 29 St.). Admis'n free  
March 14: Nuncio Pernicone "Errico Malatesta : The Formative Years"

March 28: Sharon Presley "Anarchism and Feminism"

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BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM NORTHERN IRELAND CAMPAIGN - General Meeting Sat. 2 March 2.15 p.m. at pub 'General Picton' Caledonian Rd. London N.1.

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SHELIA ROWBOTHAM (books rev. FREEDOM 16/2/74) lectures at Central London WEA on currents in radical ideas & movements. For syllabus send SAE to Sidney Billson, 33 Compton Rd., N.1. (also for 6-week course from 22 April on 'Agricultural & Labour History 19th Century')

THIRD WAY IN VIETNAM - for newsletter send SAE to Denis Bates, c/o Birmingham Peace Centre, 18 Moor St. Ringway, Birmingham

RADICAL No. 2, publ. (in English) by Ideas Publishing House, Tokyo on behalf of group of Japanese Anarchists, available from Freedom Bookshop FREE but please enclose 3p stamp for post.

MENTAL PATIENTS UNION every Sat. 2 p.m. at Robin Farquarson Hse. 37 Mayola Rd. E.5. tel 986 5251 open to all mental patients & ex-pts., foll. by coffee & work group. MPU News 10p + 4p post.

LONDON SCHOOL OF NONVIOLENCE at Crypt of St. Martin in the Fields, Every Monday & Wednesday 6.30 - 9. p.m.

STOKE NEWINGTON FIVE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE, 54 Harcombe Road, N.15

GIOVANNI MARINI DEFENCE COMMITTEE Paolo Braschi, C.P. 4263, 20100 MILANO, Italy. This comrade 20 months in prison awaiting trial.

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# Films on Spain

DURING MARCH the National Film Theatre 2 on Southbank near Waterloo, has two programmes devoted to the Spanish Civil War. The first programme on Wednesday, March 6th at 6.15 and 8.30 contains two items about the war made by the Progressive Film Institute, together with the "March of Time" edition entitled REHEARSAL FOR WAR, and Joris Iven's documentary, THE SPANISH EARTH. After the 8.30 performance Ivor Montagu and Sidney Cole will be present for audience discussion. The second programme, on Thursday March 7, at 6.15 and 8.30, consists of film made by the Spanish Government and edited by our comrade Luis Bunuel in exile, under the title of MADRID '36. In addition, other newsreel material will be shown, together with the film FREE THAELMANN which was made by the German Relief Committee for the Victims of Fascism in 1935, in an attempt to arouse world-wide sympathy for Ernest Thaelmann who had been imprisoned for four years without trial. The film was banned by the British Board of Film Censors, and was also vetoed by the London County Council, having only been removed from the GLC's list of titles that may not be exhibited in Greater London as recently as 1970.

D.G.