

THE MOLE

BRIGHTON: FEB 19 — MAR 5

6d No. 13



THIS THURSDAY at the February meeting of the Council, the Finance Committee will urge a rate increase of 7d in the pound for householders. Chairman Cllr. Best will say that this is necessary because of the increase in expenditure of £1,230,000 in 1970-71, of which £1m is "inflation". To keep the increase less than the 9d extra originally proposed, at least £100,000 will be cut from committee estimates, mainly health and education according to Town Hall logic. The most dramatic decision known so far is to cut the £18,000 grant to Sussex University, but the Finance Committee may also try to cut the Education Committee's grant by at least £53,000, with nursery schools as the first target.

The Council is blaming the situation on central govt. policies, inflated interest rates, while Cllr. Best has picked on pay awards to local teachers, firemen, manual workers and corporation clerical staff. "Galloping inflation" he cries. It is true that interest rates are so high that, for example, in housing, they make up 55% of all current expenditure.

But behind these facades lies the basic reality of Brighton Council policy. Due to its intense right-wing convictions it has deliberately castrated its own revenue. Government policy is to rate all empty property, and 98 other authorities have done so. In Brighton, 1,900 properties could be rated, bringing in £40,000 a year, but this year the subject was deferred for three years. (see MOLE 11) The other major source of income lies in municipally owned development projects - and so far every single project in this town has been alienated: auctioned off by the Council to private interests.

National Car Parks Ltd: each site built by the Corporation at public expense, the Regency Square site built from the profits of the parking meters, annual income per site £140,000.

The Marina: (if it is ever built) an example of complete speculation, masquerading as a community development, 1½ miles of seafront leased.

Churchill and Brighton Square: central areas of the town sold to Mytons and Hanningtons.

Brighton Beaches: complete lack of any positive policy to improve the amenities by the Corporation; instead hoteliers like Mr. Feld are going to put their own proposals to fence off appropriate areas of the beach to the Finance Committee, which has approved the idea in principle.

New Conference Centre: hoteliers are ready to cash in again. According to an official report, 60% of the £2,632,750 spent in Brighton by conference delegates goes to private hotels.

2 MONTHS LATER

THAT THE WYKEHAM TERRACE FAMILIES, SO MUCH AN ISSUE LAST YEAR, have faded from public attention should not obscure the fact that the problems they and many other families in Brighton in similar situations face are still very real.

Of the three families housed on the Sussex University campus last year, one, the Christmases, obtained a one bedroomed flat at a rent of £5 a week. The fund collected for the families last year, together with a students union loan, covered a year's advance rent for the houses obtained for the other two families, the Edwards and Wares, who are now repaying the loan at a rate of 5 guineas a week to the students union, plus an additional 15 shillings in rates, each.

Repairs on the worst of the two houses, the Edwards', a house condemned 15 years ago and with a severe rising damp problem, are proceeding, although very slowly, now the Health Department have contacted the landlord, Mr. R. Caton, but the Edwards' will have to tolerate bad conditions for the foreseeable future. (Moreover tenants in St. James House, High Street, are suffering the same conditions.)

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

EVENTS IN THE MAGISTRATES COURT took Brighton Rents Project by surprise as former squatter Mr. Michael Christmas was remanded to Lewes to wait a week for committal. The speed in which the police acted after the long gap since the time of eviction took all by surprise.

No-one more so than Mr. Christmas who at 11.30 on Sunday morning was taken and charged under the 1429 Act of forcibly possessing houses in Wykeham Terrace. There was a secondary charge in connection with the making of explosives.

It has been suggested that the reason the police took so long to act is that they had to search

Proposals have been made that the students union allocate £12,000 over the next few years to purchase 3 houses & rent them to the families on easy terms, but this faces many difficulties and drawbacks.

One concrete step we can hope for is that the surplus remaining from the fund collected for the families, which was used towards the years rent and which the families are now repaying, will be allocated towards the immediate problem.

Special attention should be paid to the six families earlier housed by Brighton Council in temporary sub-standard accommodation, whose conditions are extremely bad, instead of going towards a housing charity as now envisaged, against the wishes of the families.

The problem of housing however must not be seen only in relation to these families. Similar problems will inevitably arise when housing is not geared to the needs of a community but produced for reasons of profit instead.

One aspect of this is the severe housing shortage in Brighton, which coincides with large numbers of empty houses. The Edwards' & Wares' landlord, for instance, owns 300 houses within a mile of Brighton, of which one third are empty. Again reports indicate that in one area of Central Brighton more than a quarter of the houses are unoccupied.

right back to 1429 to find a charge in the law books which they could make stick.

Mr. Christmas appeared the next day not legally represented - not many solicitors open on a Sunday. The disturbing fact is that Mr. Christmas had not time to prepare any sort of defence and, being unfamiliar with the law, did not know what to do and at no time during the case did the Magistrate seem to think it very important that Mr. Christmas had been charged and brought before the Court at such ridiculously short notice.

He was refused bail although he is in residence in Brighton working and had good sureties. Also charged were Michael Mitchell, Anthony Barrarini and Paul Miles in connection with explosives. It became apparent during the case that we may see more charges being brought against families and members of the Brighton Rents Project if they can make the 1429 Act stick.

If anyone in connection with BRP or the Squat is approached by the police he should remember first get a Solicitor or member of the NCCL, and second don't say a word until he comes, and then ask for bail.



FESTIVAL FARCE AGAIN

ON MONDAY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN CHARING CROSS HOTEL, the programme of this year's Festival was announced. The content of the programme is predictable. The emphasis is on big names - Daniel Barenboim, Jaqueline du Pre, The London Ensemble. All these artists are on the books of the Harold Holt Agency of which Ian Hunter, the Artistic Director of the Festival, is Chairman,

The range of the fringe festival is more than ever restricted this year. The Combination which has just reopened, was refused support by the Festival Committee. In a reply to an application for a children's troupe, previously a popular event, the Board said, "Unfortunately our booking brochure, with the finalised details for 1970 is already at the printers".

Nothing more has been heard about a rock festival at the race-course either, and the division between the elitist culture of the Festival promoters and the community seems as wide as ever. Still, there is no 10% cut on rock artists, local artists and performers as there is with certain well-known performers.

HERALD FATE

As the auditors move in rumour grows as to who will be the new owners of the Herald. Favourites at the moment are the Sussex Express and County Herald who are having distribution problems at their main distribution centre at Hastings. It is therefore not likely that the Herald will continue.

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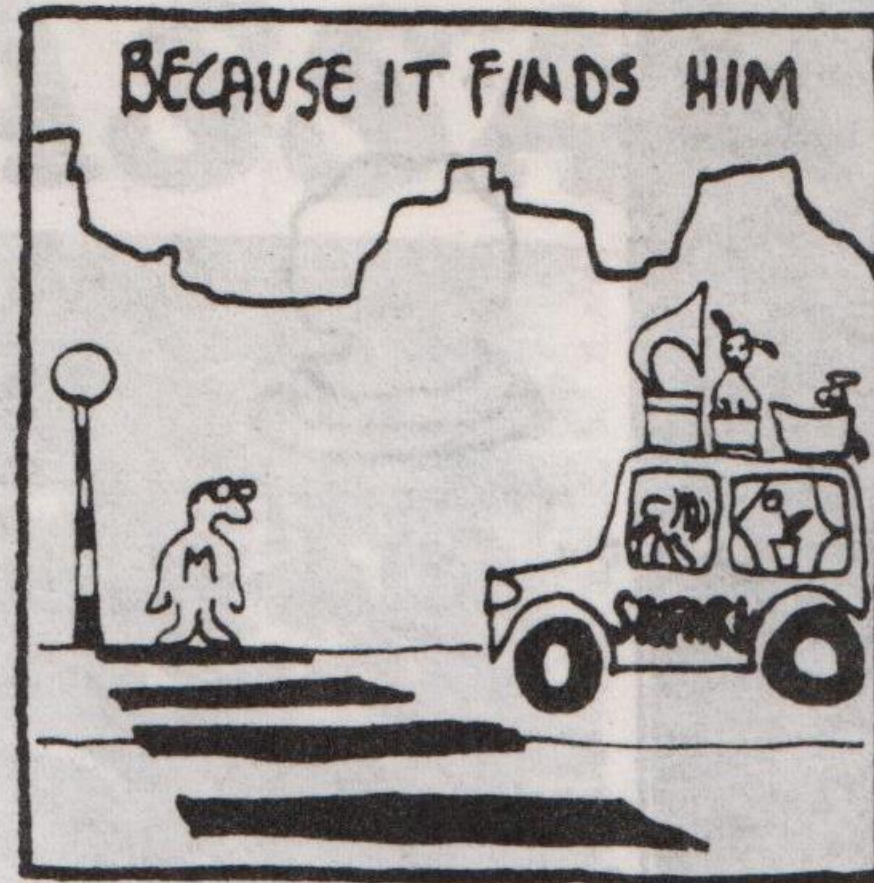
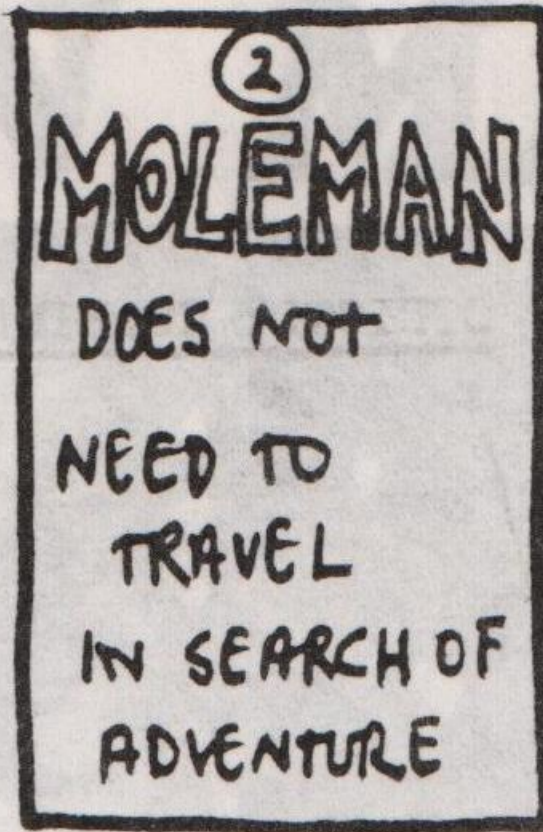
and the London Rd news-stand.

WAITING FOR LEFTY

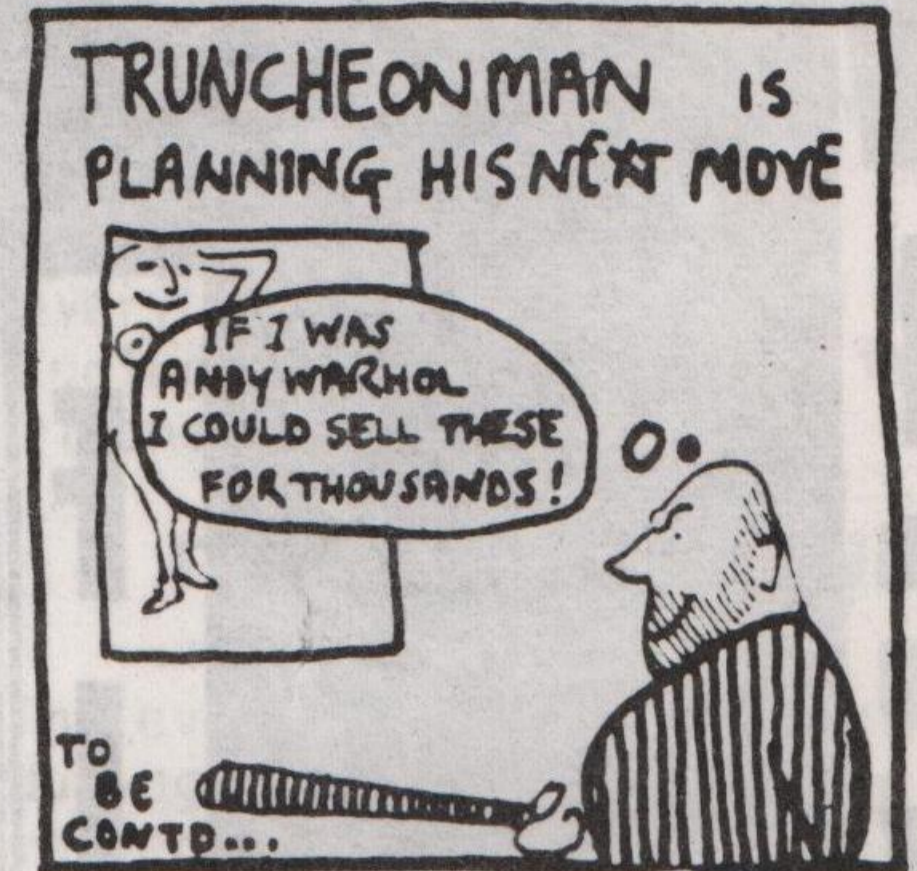
BRIGHTON TRADES COUNCIL last week took a direct ideological step towards the Left by changing just one word: they replaced the word 'shall' by 'may' in a rule concerning the Council's co-operation with the Labour Party.

This saw the unusual sight of the extreme Right and Left of the party uniting to defend themselves. The rule was carried by 21 votes to 10, shattering the illusion that Labour controlled the Trades Council, but Labour's spirits were raised, that is those on the Right Wing of the Party, when John Allen was made Assistant Secretary, the only change in the make-up at the top of the Trades Council.

What a pity that the Left of the Labour Party only nominated Dudley Edwards for the E.C., and not for the position of Deputy.



Secretary Dennis Hill, in reply to a question on certain members of the National Front holding union positions, as reported after a letter appearing in the Herald, firmly denied that the National Front had any foothold at all in Brighton's Industrial section, and said that the Trades Council knew just about all there was about the Front and that it remained as it always has done - a minority group.



council cut

LAST FRIDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT that the Finance Committee of Brighton Council have recommended a household rate increase of 7d per pound per week seemed like a generous gesture at first. Cr. Peter Best (chairman) explained:

"To meet the estimates that have been submitted by the various committees we should have to make a 9d domestic rate increase and a 1/2d. increase for business premises." Cr. Best then went on to explain that a 9d increase seemed too large and that in consequence his committee recommended that the increase be cut by 2d and cuts made in other committee estimates to cover this.

One of the first cuts to be made was the £18,000 grant to the university. Cr. Best declined to comment on his committee's decision concerning the grant. This was last Friday but on the following Monday (the 16th) the decision became known.

What happened in the intervening period is unclear, but our source informs us that it was likely that no decision on the grant had actually been taken on Friday, and that the Finance Committee was split down the middle (one half believing the university to be a good investment, the other half wanting nothing to do with students).

Attempts have previously been made to get the Council to withdraw their grant, especially at times when the students' political activities have been embarrassing. It appears that the votes moving against those who believed in the investment potential of the University was not unconnected with the fact that the student's Union rejected the proposed discipline scheme (which is loaded against political activity) for a third time last week.

argus ad.

As reported in Mole No. 12 the Even-Argus banned an advertisement submitted by a Pacifist Group. We are pleased to report that, after pressure from M.P. Dennis Hobden and publicity from the Mole, the Southern Publishing Co. have relented in their ban.

tenants fight

On January 29th the Argus announced the Council's plan for rent increases. The council tenants' rent is to be increased by an average of 7/- a week which is very near the Government's maximum average increase of 7/6 a week in any one year.

In spite of Cr. Peter Best's (chairman of Finance Cttee) belief that: "We should increase the rents by a greater sum than is intended because if we don't we shall have to increase them again within a short space of time", another rise next year is guaranteed.

B.P.R.

Brighton Rents Project (still very much alive - contrary to rumour) have been distributing leaflets to council tenants, especially in the Whitehawk area. The leaflet points out: "With huge sums being spent on the Marina project (£5m.) and luxury flat building around Churchill Square, it is clearer every day that Brighton Council's housing interest is in profit and not in people's needs."

SLOANE ST.

"Do they intend to build new houses or make improvements with the money from the increases? Hardly - only about 250 units are planned for Brighton for 1970, and if the Sloane St. site (see Mole 10) goes to industry, only about 100 will get built (with 1,100 families on the waiting list). No, they need the increases to pay the very high interest rates charged by the moneylenders."

"In fact, interest rates on Council loans are so high that at present they make up 55% of all current expenditure on housing." (ed. note: the number of people in need of housing is nearer 2,000, see MOLES 2 and 11 - the actual figures of the Housing Revenue Account are Annual expenditure £2½m., interest charges £1½m.)

The leaflet continued with a report on the council's costing of TV aerials for all council houses (see MOLE 11) and finished with a call to build tenants' associations to defend themselves against such treatment. There is to be a joint Greater London Council & Brighton Council Tenants demonstration in Brighton this Easter.

TORIES MOVE IN

Meanwhile, the Tories have moved into action on the Whitehawk estate. Under the name "Whitehawk & Manor Farm Community Association" they got a good turnout last week to a meeting to form such an organisation. Great satisfaction was expressed by the leaders of the WMFCA with the turnout at this inaugural meeting.

However, the Association sees its priorities not in terms of fighting rent rises, TV aerial fiddles etc., but in terms of turning Whitehawk into some pale imitation of Saltdean. Although some of the amenities the Association demands are necessary (eg. Youth and Community centres), they see their role as reformist and not agitational.

The fact remains that they did get a good response - which proves that Whitehawk tenants do want an association. That association should not be fighting for better conditions within the existing system, but for a total restructuring of the Council's disgusting housing policy.

CRYPT DISCO

FRIDAY NIGHTS
starting Jan 23rd
Adm. 2/-

WARWICK

FILES



STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
HIGHGATE ROAD
LONDON, N.W.5

17th February 1969.

Dear Sir,

Michael Wolf. Course No. 37220. Molecular Science.

I write to you concerning the application for entry in 1969 of M. Wolf, of this School. I find it necessary to add to the comments made on the UCCA entry form concerning his preoccupation with student politics. He is now a committee member of the London Schools Action Group, engaged in the organising of protests and demonstrations concerning School Government, etc. His name appeared in the Times Educational Supplement of the 10th January, expressing his intention to embark on militant action when necessary.

I felt that it was important that you should be aware of this in making your decision. I would prefer this communication to be treated very confidentially, and should be pleased to receive your comments.

Yours faithfully,

J.B. Butterworth
Head Master.

The Tutor for Admissions,
Faculty of Science,
University of Warwick,
Coventry.

Reject this man. J.B.B.

THIS IS A HAND-WRITTEN NOTE BY J.B. BUTTERWORTH, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF WARWICK UNIVERSITY. IT READS: "REJECT THIS MAN. J.B.B."

THE DISCOVERY OF POLITICAL RECORDS AT WARWICK UNIVERSITY is important, not only for the particular militants involved, but for those involved in left-wing agitation anywhere in this country.

Similar records have already been found at other universities like Edinborough and SUSSEX, and, of course, management compiled black lists for industrial militants are almost as old as capitalism itself. What the many "confidential" letters discovered show is the interpenetration and scope of the secretive political policing carried out by relatively high ranking members of the establishment.

The MOLE now has copies of these letters. They show, not the hidden strands of some vast conspiracy, but rather the way our "liberal" society works behind the scenes. The very political considerations that a university has to make about its attitudes to certain students are not only shown, they are also explained.

industry

Among the letters were:

From Rootes: a) letter from a director seeking the deportation of an ideologically suspect lecturer - with it a report by a spy who was sent to attend a meeting at which the man spoke.

b) letter from manager of Automotive Products complaining about certain students distributing leaflets outside his factory.

From Courtaulds: letter urging closer ties with Courtaulds in order to receive financial support.

Other examples of this type, linking the University with big business were found. What becomes clear is that the college seeks and gets advice from its sponsors. Management has always been quick to jump on left-wing workers in the factory, so why not carry the strategy over and include the employees of the future. Universities are paid to produce well trained technicians and that means ideologically well trained.

council

A number of letters were from local councillors on the subject of the Schools Action Union and the role students played in distributing leaflets outside schools (including one from a certain Enoch Powell), and one from an Alderman requesting a check on militants.

If the Vice-Chancellor is as accommodating to all his correspondants as he was in the case of the letter we print (and the decision there is clearly political) then he makes nonsense of all this stuff we are told about the independent role of the educators. We can understand Rootes wanting to spy on socialists.

But why should Universities accept correspondence like this as confidential? If they are so independent of political considerations, why then are the people mentioned in such letters not told of their existence? And why are such documents secretly filed by the au-

thorities? They are of no academic interest at all, and, we assume, are kept only to serve the purposes of the police or of future employers.

repression

The clandestine workings of the ruling class to frustrate any radical movement should be of no surprise to us. But a slip-up like this may cost them dearly. Not only is the true role of the University in our society revealed, its intricate connections with big business, but also the subtlety of repression in a so called Liberal system (SEE LETTER PRINTED ABOVE).

It is no accident that Directors from both Courtaulds and Rootes are on either Warwick's University Council or the Finance Committee, and that one of the buildings is actually named Rootes Hall (it was, after all, built with its money). But if the colleges keep political records what are the individual firms and the police doing? The workers at Automated Products have already asked this question and there are threats of a strike unless the bosses can prove that no files are being kept.

Of course such files are kept - at least one of the men named in the spy's report is blacklisted in the Coventry area. And what has happened at Warwick should be given as much publicity as possible so that both workers and students can learn the truth about the way our society is run and by what kind of people.

MEXICAN MASSACRE



VICTIMS OF THE 1968 DEMONSTRATION

LAST WEEK A UNION GENERAL MEETING AT THE UNIVERSITY unanimously passed a motion in support of the international demand for the release of political prisoners in the Mexican jail at LECUMBERRI.

Senor Jose Landero, speaking to the meeting, explained the situation behind the attempted massacre of about 200 political prisoners in the jail. We print here an account of the events leading up to the attempted massacre on January 1st 1970 - events which have been swept under the carpet by the British press.

At this time 38% of all Mexicans are illiterate, 400,000 are unemployed; 71% of all dwellings lack drainage, 68% lack drinking water. In parts of Mexico City there is one lavatory for every 58 inhabitants, 2 to 3 million new houses are needed in the country and a half million in the towns. 4% of Mexico's wealthy receive 25% of the national income while 10 million out of 47 million Mexicans are near to starving. (Militant Feb 1970).

Since 1920 the position of workers and peasants has got progressively worse and in 1958 a wave of strikes flooded Mexico. By 1961, however, the Government had broken the strikes and imprisoned all the leaders - many of whom are still imprisoned today.

OLYMPIC PROTEST

The movement was effectively crushed until 1968, the year of the Mexican Olympic Games. Seeking this opportunity to obtain as much international attention and support as possible 200,000 students and professors took up the banner of Mexican workers and peasants and held mass demonstrations with democratic objectives such as the freedom of political prisoners and the abolition of the Article of Social Dissolution which constitutes a judiciary instrument introduced by the Government in order to BAN ALL STRIKES.

The Government (under the presidency of Gustavo Diaz Ordaz) brutally suppressed the '68 demonstrations (which were peaceful). 300 were killed and 185 were jailed (many without trial) for, what amount to, political reasons. Since that time conditions for prisoners and other groups working

to democratize Mexico have got worse. The mass of workers and peasants suffer at the hands of the few rich and powerful, there is no right to strike, the Unions and peasant organisations are Government controlled, all political and democratic opposition to the Ordaz regime has been viciously suppressed.

The students and university teachers remain the only sector that escapes direct Government control. They continue to mobilize.

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Meanwhile, in protest against their treatment 84 political prisoners began a hunger strike on 10th December 1969. Demonstrations of solidarity at Mexican Universities and the threat of new action by students, workers and peasants led to the Ordaz regime attempt at yet another bloody suppression - this time of the political prisoners themselves.

At about 4pm. on January 1st, women and children at the Lecumberri Jail left the political prisoners whom they were visiting. They were detained by the prison authorities in a corridor. The political prisoners heard their cries 4½ hours later and organised a delegation to discuss the situation with the authorities. They were refused permission to leave their cell blocks and some time later, still hearing the cries of their families, left their blocks to approach the governor. They found their way blocked by several hundred of the ordinary prisoners who were under the order of Brigadier-General Andres Puentes Vargas. They were all armed with clubs, knives and knuckle-dusters and the men in the front line all appeared to be drugged or drunk. The warders and deputy governor were seen to incite the prisoners of other cell-blocks to attack the political prisoners, in the presence of the prison governor.

Seeing the deliberate provocation involved the the political prisoners agreed to return to their cell-blocks. At this point General Vargas fired several shots in the air and rallied the ordinary prisoners to chase the political prisoners as they retreated.

Iron bars, sticks, knives and gun shots from guards and warders were all used to attack the political prisoners during their retreat - and when they had returned to their blocks. Three political prisoners were severely wounded: Jose Luis Nunez (gunshot) Rafael Jacobo (stabbing) Gilberto Balam (head blow).

Afterwards the authorities gave the ordinary prisoners permission to loot the cell-blocks of the political prisoners. They took everything they could find including two manuscripts of imprisoned professors.

FURTHER ACTION

The events lasted for 24 hours, during which time the prison was roamed by bands of ordinary prisoners, and the political prisoners were not let out of their cells. The attempted massacre, which was obviously well planned (being preceded by a great deal of advance provocation in the Mexican papers etc.), has moved the students, workers and peasants to further action.

Their demands are simple - in fact there is only one:

UNCONDITIONAL FREEDOM
FOR ALL
POLITICAL PRISONERS

A demonstration was held in front of the Mexican Embassy in London on 24th January. Senor Landero and his associates are at present soliciting world-wide support.

It must be realised that the sort of political victimisation at present going on in the USA with the Black Panthers and the so-called "conspirators" of the Chicago demonstrations at the '68 Democratic Party Convention is not a far cry from the events in Mexico.

And in Britain too, we have the Government's attempts to pass anti-strike legislation and the attempts at political victimisation of left-wing students which become common knowledge in the past few weeks (Warwick; the discipline scheme at Sussex).

SUPPORT

Our Mexican comrades in prison "appeal for condemnation of (their Government's) actions by every possible means, through all the workers', students', peasants' & people's organizations, in Mexico and the rest of the world."

If you can lend your support to the struggle contact the:

European Committee for the Freedom of Mexican Political Prisoners,
197 Kings Cross Road,
London, W.C.1.

If you can write direct to the prisoners the MOLE office will have a list of names available. In whatever small way, support for and solidarity with these prisoners being so brutally held is protection for ourselves, students and workers.

theatricals in court

On December the 9th to the 11th, five members of a Guerilla Theatre group in London were tried at Wells Street magistrates court. They had been performing a ten minute humorous confrontation sketch at various schools since mid-September. Of the cast of six, three belong to the "Schools Action Union" which has as its aim to mobilise school students against authoritarianism. The play had the same aim to expose aspects of the education system which reinforce the capitalist economic system. It attacked the authoritarianism of schools, the enforcement of petty regulations, the purpose of which is mainly to instill a belief in the pupils that to stay alive you must obey the Big Boss. Such "education" teaches conformity, encourages kids to fight each other and compete for the best results, destructive of independent and creative thought.

The setting of the play was a classroom, with teacher dressed in black gown and cane, and kids in shorts. This vivid visual effect was appreciated by the school children who watched, and the idea of confrontation was expressed in a dance-song-pantomime routine. Eg: throughout half the length of the play, 5 people were running on the spot in a constant race, while the only one not to think is made the new captain. The attack was not against the individual teacher, here used as a symbol.

playground comedy

BATTLE No. 1 SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL (mixed)

We entered the school playground in the lunch-hour and started to perform. Soon a few hundred kids had gathered round to watch and applaud. Big Brother came out with a few teachers. They started pushing the kids around and told us to get out. We continued the play just outside the playground fence. Big Brother called the fuzz. As the fuzz carried and pushed us away, we called to the kids: "Do you want us to stay?" They shouted, in unison: "YES".

No. 2 COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL (mixed)

During the performance some of the prefects tried pushing the kids around but failed to move them from the playground.

The fuzz arrived as we were leaving. They took our names and addresses and warned us not to perform anywhere else.

No. 3 COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL (mixed)

We didn't finish the play, but had a very good discussion with the kids (all working class). They told us what their complaints were and we all discussed ways of fighting for their demands. The fuzz were not called.

No. 4. PUBLIC SCHOOL (boys)

This school is notorious for keeping files on what parties the boys go to etc. .

One reception was fairly good, despite a few idiotic comments. One budding Powellite poured a cup of water over us.

street drama

No. 5. SIR PHILIP MAGNUS SECONDARY MODERN FOR BOYS.

Though we did not know it at the time, this was to be our last performance.

Time : lunch hour. Friday 26th September 1969.

Place : Vernon Square (nr. Kings Cross), small, paved area outside the school gates.

The kids had a play of their own - throwing stones at us. However they soon were on our side. The reason was the behaviour of Mr. Pledger, the Headmaster. He arrived on the scene and tried to force the boys to go back into school. We asked him not to push the boys around and explained to him that they were allowed out of school during the lunch hour. The H.M. went off to call the fuzz who arrived a few minutes later. It is now clear that by then the decision to arrest us had already been taken. It was promptly put into effect :

Police Sergeant : "Get back into school"

Nick (one of our group): "They're allowed out in the lunch break. Why should they get back inside?"

P.S. : "Because I say so!"

N. : "Do you make the laws?"

P.S. : "I interpret them."

N. : "Maybe you bend them a little."

P.S. : "Look here, young Barnabas, if ever I see you again I'll pull off your beard and cut off your hair, you fucking long-haired weirdo."

N. : "What! Did you call me a fucking long-haired weirdo?"

Nick was promptly arrested and charged with "using insulting words whereby a breach of the peace is likely to have been occasioned."

In a short space of time four others were arrested : Pete, Neil, Mike and Steve.

Three of us spent a night in Ashford Remand Home (known to the inmates as 'sunny Ashford Holiday camp') surrounded by 40 ft high walls with rolls of barbed wire on top. Pete was kept for a week in Brixton prison. By some oversight Mike managed to get bail on the day of the arrest, and so was released the same evening.

court farce

Some of the original five charges against us were altered and another 4 added. We were eventually tried for the following : Neil, "Threatening Behaviour" and "Obstructing the Police". Nick "Insulting behaviour". Pete "Insulting Behaviour". Steve "Obstructing the Police" and "Obstructing the Highway". Mike "Insulting behaviour", "Obstructing the Police" and "Obstructing the Highway".

Our trial lasted 3 days. Most of the police evidence consisted of fantastic fabrications, which though primitive, satisfied the magistrate. The sergeant who had arrested Nick stated that it was Nick who had called him a "fucking long-haired weirdo", whilst in fact the boot was on the other foot. Nick has long hair whereas the policeman concerned is virtually bald!

The fuzz claimed that 3 of them were required to hold down Nick, who was "struggling violently". The defence produced photographs showing Nick being led to the car and also sitting in the car. The photos clearly show that he was completely peaceful and did not attempt to struggle!

When questioned by the defence, one of the policemen who had assaulted Steve and Mike for obstructing the highway, said that the obstruction lasted for all of 30 seconds!

The fuzz claimed that Neil had tried to free a prisoner (ie Pete) and that they did not beat him up. When Neil was attacked by the fuzz, Mike stood 3 ft from him; Neil never came closer than 5 yds to the policeman leading Pete.

The defence evidence was at times ridiculed, and at times completely ignored, by both the prosecutor and the magistrate. At the summing up, the magistrate only recited the prosecution evidence, ignoring the 4 independent witnesses for the defence.

As regards the accusation of indecent language, the magistrate said he did not believe a policeman could use such. He admitted that it seemed incredible for Nick to call a policeman "Long-haired" -- so incredible in fact that it had to be true, for if a policeman had wished to lie, he would have made a more credible story.

Concerning the argument over whether Nick did, or did not struggle, as he was arrested, the magistrate claimed the photos proved nothing. According to the great logician, Nick could have at first struggled, then stopped while the photo was taken, then started and finally stopped struggling.

The 3 policemen who claimed Neil had tried to free Pete all contradicted each other. The magistrate said this proved they were telling the truth, for if there had been a police plot (ha ha) they would all have taken care to tell the same story.

After these amazing logical stunts the magistrate still felt that 6 of the 9 charges had not been substantiated. Sentences : Neil 2 yrs conditional discharge; Nick and Pete £20 fines and bound over for 2 yrs for the sum of 150£ each; Steve and Mike "Not Guilty".

For more details see the pamphlet "From the Guerilla theatre to Courtroom farce", produced by 2 members of our group. If you are interested please write c/o MOLE.

By a member of the Guerilla Theatre.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN



War films have always been popular in Britain - not surprisingly, since Britain has won about every war it has ever fought. And until recently war films have shown only the heroic side of war. Then came a series of films which took the glamour right out of war. Battle of Britain is one of the old-style films; the film is full of action - aerial dogfights, London at the start of the Blitz and brave pilots scrambling to meet the Hun.

The film was made in order to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the actual Battle of Britain, and an enormous amount of money was poured into the production - witness the huge number of genuine aeroplanes in the film. All of course, helped by the RAF.

As films go, this one is nothing spectacular. The emphasis is on action, and there is very little room left for character plot. Most of the film is taken up with shots of brave ex-public schoolboys swooping up into the skies to meet their German counterparts, and

when you are swathed in a flying suit and goggles you don't have much chance to show your abilities, if any (even if you are Michael Caine).

One of the most obnoxious points about the film is the way it glorifies the so-called typical British character. Take for instance one of the early scenes: the stark halls of the Chancellory in Berlin are depicted, the the camera cuts to the British Embassy in Switzerland, where the ambassador's wife is seen arranging a vase of flowers. The German envoy comes in and, in a somewhat uptight manner, gives the German conditions for peace. The British ambassador has meanwhile been pouring out some tea and, when the German has finished, calmly offers him a cup! Towards the end of the conversation the ambassador does get a little angry, and after the German has left he reveals this fact with embarrassment to his wife!

So, what distinguishes this film from any other war film? Mainly its timing; it's not long since Harold Wilson made an appeal to the "Dunkirk spirit" - and the latest balance of payments figures show that (for the time being anyway) Britain is winning its "fight for survival". Too close analogy? Maybe - but then super-patriotic films have always been popular when the "nation" is in danger

P.W.

THE BYRDS:

EASY RIDER

Roger McGuinn, sole survivor of the original Byrds, leader of the group now claiming that name, was going to call this album "Captain America". Commercial influences obviously dictated the new title, and the ridiculous sleeve-notes by Peter Fonda (who writes about as well as he acts). Disregarding the slightly offensive hype involved, this album is one of the best yet to be produced by any group calling itself the Byrds.

The title track is well-known from the film; it is pretty mediocre, and repeating the first verse never helped a song taken that slowly. There are two fast hard-rock cuts; "Jesus is Just Alright", the best cut on the album makes use of a modified Stones riff, "Fido" features some nice guitar from Clarence White interplaying with McGuinn - but it sounds remarkably like a Blossom Toes number. There is a clever drum break from Guy Parsons. The intelligent use of bass and drums is a major feature of the production, one sadly lacking in the group's recent efforts.

slow album

But principally this is a slow album. They take "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue" from the same side of the same Dylan album from which they once took, and rocked-up, "Mr Tambourine Man", and treat it with a reverence that is stunning in view of their previous efforts.

There is also a Guthrie song, a few traditional numbers which fit into the country-rock pattern, and a couple of group originals in remarkably un-Byrdlike vocal tones. "Jack Tar The Sailor" with synthesiser and banjo, is most reminiscent of their previous work, as McGuinn projects an atmosphere of absolute and final weariness.

White, the new guitarist, plays simple phrases, a bit different to the old circular, infinite-regress, twelve-string riff which once characterized the group. (And compare the Kinks "Victoria" with "Tired of Waiting"). McGuinn sings about half the numbers, and almost sounds sincere. The album as a whole exhibits a mastery of the short, tight-rock cut which so many groups have lost - in this respect (if in no other) the group may be compared to the new L.A. groups like the Doors and Spirit, rather than to the San Francisco groups.

A.W.

unicorn bookshop

Stocks the following magazines

Brighton Film Review	Oz
Socialist Standard	IT
Gandalf's Garden	MOLE
Man Myth & Magic	Fusion
Rolling Stone	Friends
Village Voice	Freedom
Black Dwarf	Communes

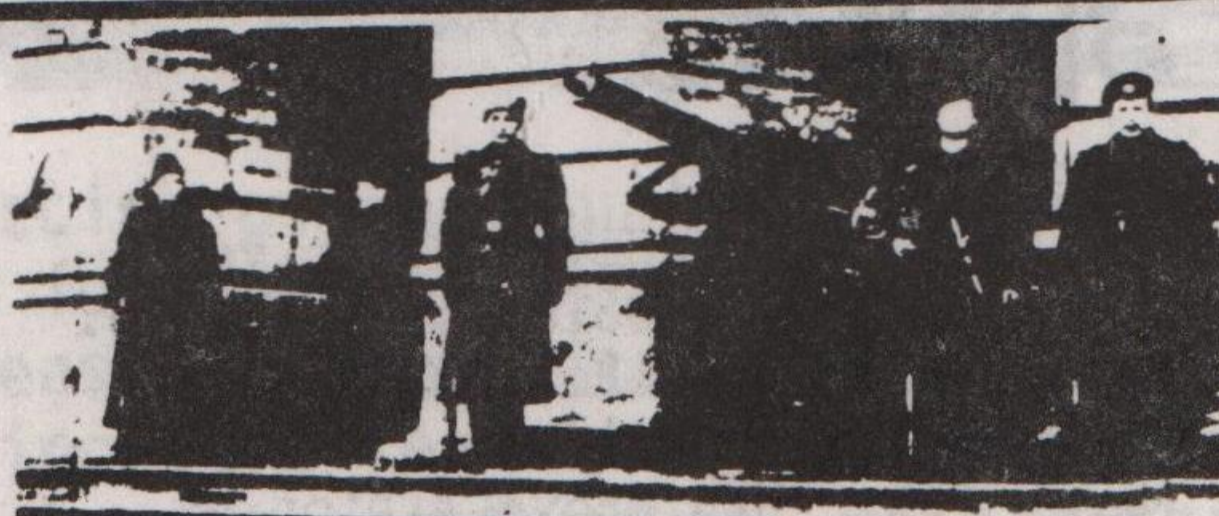
50 Gloucester Rd

TEN DAYS

IN OCTOBER 1917, in Petrograd (now Leningrad) there occurred the most momentous event in recent history - the Russian Revolution. In Petrograd at the time was a certain John Reed, an American social-democrat who was reporting on events in Russia. Ten Days That Shook The World is his eyewitness account of the events leading up to and including the revolution.

If anyone wants an introduction to the revolution, and to the politics on which it was based, they could hardly do better than read this book. Reed records conversations with the leading political figures of the time - the Bolsheviks, the Mensheviks, right-wingers and businessmen, as well as with ordinary workers, soldiers, sailors and peasants. In this way he makes the revolution seem as if it were happening now, the reader becomes a spectator of actual events.

Reed starts his narrative with a useful chapter giving the historical background: after the fall of the Tsar the "moderate" Mensheviks were unable to satisfy the desires of the masses, who, first slowly, then in torrents, came over to the Bolsheviks who, with their slogan BREAD, LAND, PEACE, offered the workers and peasants of Russia the only solution to their problems. Then, in more detail, Reed reports the ferment in Pet-



rograd as the revolution approached.

Finally, the Revolution. The bitter struggles in the Petrograd Soviet (a council of elected workers', peasants' and soldiers' deputies). The frantic attempts of the ruling class to mislead the workers and regain power for themselves. The split in the Bolshevik party itself over censorship in the middle of the Revolution. The street fighting and attempted invasion of Petrograd by Kerensky - the deposed "moderate" premier.

The narrative ends with the agreement reached between the Bolsheviks and the Left Social Revolutionaries - a revolutionary peasant party - to form a coalition. That signified the internal consolidation of state power in the hands of the revolutionaries.

In the introduction Lenin writes: "With greatest interest and with never-slackening attention I read John Reed's book Ten Days That Shook The World. Unreservedly do I recommend it to the workers of the world...." Recommendations don't come much higher than that.

(Ten Days That Shook The World by Penguin Press, 7s)

P.W.

mole's diary

cinema

B.F.T(29562)

Thurs.Feb.19(til'Sun):8½.

Late-night Sat.: DIARY OF A SHINJUKU THIEF..11pm.

Sun.Feb.22(only): ODETTE.

Mon.Feb.23(til'Sat.):DIARY OF A SHINJUKU THIEF.

EMBASSY(725124)

Now showing:CARRY ON SERGEANT.

Sun.Feb.22:(til'Thurs.): SNOWS OF KILIMANJARO.(U.S.A.57)

Thurs.Feb.26 til' Feb.28:ROSEMARY'S BABY.

VOGUE(63314)

For a season..THEOREM/OEDIPUS REX (Pasolini)

CONTINENTALE(681348)

Showing now:PEOPLE MEET/ESCALATION.

Sun.Feb.22:THE PORNOGRAPHER YOUNG WOLF.

Feb.29:MON AMOUR/SHE.

CLASSIC(29414)

Now showing THE LOVE BUG(Disney)

Sun.Feb.22:ONE MILLION YEARS B.C./SHE.

Mon.March1st.:THE GRADUATE/THE KNACK.

DUKE OF YORKS(62503)

Now showing:MACKENNA'S GOLD.

Sun.Feb.22:KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE

A.B.C(27010)

Thurs.Feb.19:BONNIE & CLYDE/BULLIT

U.O.S. FILM SOCIETY

Thurs.Feb.19:POINT BLANK..6.30pm

Mon.Feb.23:HIGH NOON..4.45pm.

Wed.Feb.25: EL(Mexico52)..4&7pm.

Thurs.Feb.26: BRINGING UP BABY.6.30pm.

CO.of ED.

Tues.Feb.24: THE NAKED PREY(USA.64) THE TRIP(USA.67)..6.30pm.

CO.of TEC.

Thursdays..7.30pm.

Feb.19:WOMAN OF THE DUNES

Feb.25:DARLING.

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Feb.16th(for 2 weeks):London Festival Ballet. nightly at 7.30pm.

noise

U.o.S.Blues Soc. Jimmy's, Steine St.

19th.Feb:Champion Jack Dupree.

26th.Feb:Free

DOME

Sat.21st.Feb:Madrid Flamenco..7.30

Sun.22nd.Feb:Btn.Phil.Orchestra.

Herbert Menges,2.45pm.

Wed.25th.Feb:'This is Scotland', Jimmy Shand&Band.

Fri.27th.Feb:Accoustic Fanasty, Al Stewart,Third Ear Band.

GARDNER CENTRE UoS.

Feb.20th,21st:Pauline de Groot Dance Co..Amsterdam.

Tues 3rd Mar to Sat 7th Mar. UoS Theatre Club, SGT MUSGRAVES DANCE

KING&QUEENFOLK CLUB.Thurs.8pm.

19th.Feb:The Tinkers.

26th.Feb:The Isherwoods.

WORTHING WORKSHOP

Blues sessions every Sunday evening.

FRINKY'S..Seafront

Every Wednesday in the cellar bar, 'The Taverners'..1/-

U.O.S.

Crypto-Discs, every Fri.night..2/-

Jazz Club:John Sermon Trio ing March 2nd, at 8pm.

IMPERIAL HOTEL, Queen's Rd.

Jazz at 8pm. every Fri.&Sat.

HARE&HOUNDS DISCOTHEQUE.

Fridays, Preston Circus, 5/-

BOUNDBOUSE, CHALK FARM.

Love, Arthur Brown..Feb.28:5pm.to12.

Principal Edwards Magic Theatre.

Sat.Feb.21:

sports

FOOTBALL

Feb.21st. Btn.&Hove Albion vs

Tramere Rovers, Goldstone Gd.Hove.

March 4th: Btn.&Hove Albion res. vs Colchester Utd. res.

March 7th: Btn.&Hove Albion vs

Barnsley, Goldstone Gd.

GREYHOUND RACING

Feb.21st & 28th. March 4th & 7th.

Neville Rd., Hove.

RUGBY

Feb.21st: Btn. 1st.XV vs Wasps

Vandals, Sports Arena.

Feb.28th: Btn. Colts XV vs West-

lain Gs.

March 7th: Btn. ex 1st.XV vs Ross-

lyn Park.

(as above) Hove 1st.XV vs Park-

House.

addresses

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events

Fri.27th.Feb: Brighton Poetry Soc.
8.15pm., Queen's Hotel. Bernard Kopp.

Sun.1st.March: Morning Star 40th.

Celebration. Ian Campbell Folk Gp.

Speakers; H.Scanlon, J.Gollan, R.Kerr.

Mon.2nd.March: C.P. Public Meeting

Pavillion Theatre..7.45pm. 'The

Common Market & You'. Speaker-G.

McLennan Nat.Org.

Films: Cuba Today, Berlin 66..1/-

Mayday Manifesto Gp. Meetings

every Monday at The Royal Ex-

change Pub., Southover St. 8pm.

U.O.S. Soc.Club: Meetings every

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Every Friday, Paul Valentine, Guitar.

Every Thurs, Sat, Sun, Ginger Jack

Mills, Guitar.

JUMBLE SALE Sat 28 Feb 10.30-12.30

and 2.30-4.30, Scout Headquarters,

Off Manor Road.



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