

anarchist fortnightly

# Freedom

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*"You cannot hope / to bribe  
or twist / thank God! the  
British journalist / But  
seeing what / that man will  
do / unbribed, there's no  
occasion to."*

**Humbert Wolfe**  
(first published in *Punch*)

## C for CAPITALISM and CORRUPTION FIDDLERS ALL!

**O**ur millionaire press is always at its 'best' when it can wallow in muck both political and human. We don't propose to select the juiciest items for our readers. What we are drawing their attention to is the fact that not one commentator or editorialist has dared to suggest that the muck they are wallowing in is *capitalism*. And that we live in a world where a privileged minority thrive on it but most are its victims from the day they are born.

Late in the day the public is discovering that corruption at top levels is no longer limited to the 'lesser breeds'. We can now include top people in all the industrial G7

countries. But then it's been going on for years. In the USA Reagan was having to change his top staff and advisers because they were all bent. Watergate, Irangate, Iraqgate, etc. In Japan the whole government were caught with their hands in the till, but every day a new financial scandal hits the headlines. The Italians are obviously top-of-the-crooks and at the recent elections the old parties (including the Christian Democrats, and this has seriously upset the Vatican which has also been implicated) have virtually disappeared, defeated by brand new clean parties. We shall see. Corruption is the lifeblood of

capitalism. For instance, there is more industrial espionage that political. Every big enterprise needs to know what its rivals are up to in research and development and other intelligence which could affect its own prospects one way or the other. So they either seek to plant their spies in the enemy's camp or recruit from inside with ... yes, you have guessed: money, free motor cars, luxury  
*(continued on page 2)*

### FIDDLING THE STATISTICS

**A**s everyone, other than the Minister of (Un)-Employment, knows the system by which the numbers of unemployed are calculated has been changed some twenty times since 1979, always in favour of presenting a rosy picture of the dismal situation. What most people don't realise is that the three million admitted by the government only refers to those actually receiving the dole. Those on so-called training schemes are not included, and the government, rather naively we think, has just discovered that the numbers on invalidity payments have doubled in the past year to 1,250,000 and they suspect doctors and others of some conspiracy to defraud the Exchequer. Naive of course because if they do 'clean up' this so-called racket it could easily mean officially adding another 600,000 to the unemployment register, which would be bad for the rosy picture.

**H**owever someone in the Ministry has got an answer to that one if the *Mail on Sunday's* front page is to be believed: 'DOLE CASH CUTS' in which it maintains that "the length of time the jobless can claim dole is set to be halved in the government's review of public spending". In this way they hope to save £500 million, and of course the numbers of 'unemployed' will dramatically drop overnight!  
Fiddlers all!

## U.S. UBER ALLES!

**S**o once more the Yanks have sought to demonstrate who rules the world, this time by launching missiles on Baghdad on the flimsy grounds that Saddam Hussein had prepared an attempt on the life of ex-President Bush when he visited Kuwait last April. The attentat never took place, though a number of Iraqis and Kuwaitis were arrested but are still awaiting trial. As someone pointed out, the Yanks are prosecutors, judges and executioners. We wonder what the ex-president was doing in Kuwait. Collecting his reward as the Saviour of the Kuwaiti rulers? After all, it wouldn't be surprising when worldwide the politicians are all collecting their dues!

But the political commentators suggest that this is a desperate effort by Clinton to show the American public he is no weakling. We are amazed that people still believe in the power of one man to take major decisions for a whole nation, and not realise that *all* the American presidents in our time have been nonentities, and have been chosen for this very reason. Think of Bush and Reagan - who couldn't even read their prepared texts without dropping

clangers! At best they are good actors playing a part that is determined for them by the real powers 'behind the throne'.

Long before Clinton was dreamed of the USA was bullying and blackmailing its neighbours to the south. It only joined the 'allies' in World War Two when Japan bombed Pearl Harbour, having until then observed, and financially benefited from afar, the bloodbath in Europe. We reproduce on page 4 an article published in our journal *War Commentary* in December 1939 with the prophetic title 'Will America Rule the World?' Indeed America has ruled the world, as an imperialist power, ever since; its military power distributed worldwide and its financial dominance in GATT and relentless in applying sanctions when the rest of the world does not dance to their tune is obviously alarming even for the USA's allies.

[See page 4 for a prophetic article by M.L. Berneri in 1939 with the title 'Will America Rule the World?']

On Yankee imperialism read Chomsky's *Year 501* (see book list for details)















