

Freedom

THE ANARCHIST WEEKLY

"If men are to wait for liberty till they become wise and good in slavery, they may indeed wait forever."

—MACAULEY.

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Threepence

THEY'VE HAD THEIR H-BOMB DEBATE AND NOW WHAT?

THE much awaited Parliamentary debate on the H-bomb took place last Tuesday. It started as a damp squib; spluttered about half-way through the debate when the Prime Minister revealed the details of a secret agreement made with Roosevelt in Quebec in 1943; and ended in smoke and hot air. And the question that faces the people of this and all countries remains. When do the people overrule the scientists and the politicians and call a halt to this insane drive towards total destruction?

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MR. ATTLEE'S speech for the opposition was uninspiring, and unconvincing; he fell over backwards in not offending either the Government or the American administration, and all he could offer as a practical suggestion was that the heads of the Big Three should get together to remove the imminent danger of an H-war from which only a "broken-back civilisation" would emerge. The rôle he assigns to the people in bringing the world to its senses was expressed in these terms:

"I believe the minds of the people all over the world are disturbed at this hydrogen bomb explosion . . . I think it is a world wide fear which will grow and should be encouraged to grow. I want every man and woman in the world to be actively aware of the danger they stand in—the danger that concerns civilisation. (Cheers) . . ."

But it is fear that prevents men and women from acting as responsible human beings; that made possible the concentration camps in Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia; that results in such phenomena as McCarthyism. Fear encourages despondency, and apathy, certainly not the determination and the respect for the dignity of the individual which alone will ensure that the horrors of new wars will be actively resisted.

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IN his speech Mr. Attlee made quite clear his contempt for the people when he said: "There is a danger that people may chance making war in the belief that this

So what was the Fuss About?

IN Birmingham, the Corporation bus workers who resisted the idea of coloured workers being taken on as conductors and, eventually, as drivers, passed the buck by giving the city's Transport Committee the responsibility of deciding the issue.

In view of the rumpus the attempt at a colour bar had caused, the Committee could hardly do other than come out against it, and they announced that coloured workers would be taken on—if they proved capable and suitable. This last proviso left it possible to restrict entry if the Committee thought fit.

Now, however, the first Jamaican has started work as a bus conductor in Birmingham—and strange to say, there have been no riots, no raping on the bus routes (or at least not more than usual) and as far as we can see no unpleasantness at all.

The fact is, though, that it has been a private company—the "Midland Red"—that has given the first chance to coloured workers on Birmingham's buses. The Corporation has yet to follow suit.

Bus conductors have to take a short training course. It will be very interesting to see whether West Indians show themselves perfectly capable of learning the job of conducting for the Midland Red, but not for the Corporation.

weapon will not be used, but the threat of its use is dangerous because it may provoke anticipation".

But "people" do not make wars. It is just those people who are herded into the armed forces by conscription laws, and who do the killing and the dying, who have the least say in the events that lead to war.

"I cannot think of any democratic statesman—continued Mr. Attlee—initiating this warfare, but one must always remember the difference between the democratic and authoritarian States. The advantage for unexpected action is always with the authoritarian States. The attack by the Japanese on the American Fleet was one thing. One cannot imagine a similar attack by Americans on the Japanese Fleet. Yet another suggestion is made—that the results of hydrogen warfare are so devastating that neither side will ever resort to it. I would like to believe it. The fact is that once there is an absolute war in the modern age, in the last resort, if the existence of a nation is at stake, any weapon will be used. We have seen it ourselves.

"No one could doubt, after reading 'Hitler's Last Days,' that even at the very end of that war, if he had had the atomic bomb, he would have used it. He would have used it even if there would have been retaliation, because he was completely reckless and anarchistic and would rather have seen absolute destruction if he failed to get his end. The danger here is obvious."

Was Roosevelt, in Mr. Attlee's opinion, "reckless and anarchistic" when he ordered the atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at a moment in the war in the Far East

when Japanese political leaders were seeking terms for an armistice? On Mr. Attlee's argument, what devilish weapons might the Democracies have used in the last war if their "existence had been at stake"!

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SINCE 1945 the two power blocs in the world have been engaged in a rearmament programme of staggering proportions. It has been possible to pour man's energies and intelligence into perfecting these terrible weapons of destruction (at the expense of millions of human beings who are undernourished and starving), through a widespread propaganda based on fear. In the West the fear of Russian expansionism; in the East fear of American encirclement. But these are not the conditions that will determine the next world conflagration. They will be the justification, the excuse, but not the fundamental cause. The cause existed before Stalin or Hitler ever loomed on the horizon, or before man's twisted intelligence thought up the hydrogen bomb. For the cause of modern wars was, and still is, the injustice of our economic system. All the rest is a smoke-screen to hide this fundamental truth which, once the toiling masses of the world were to become aware of it, and act accordingly, would have repercussions more far reaching than the largest hydrogen bomb—but for the good, and not the destruction, of mankind.

Kenya Police Officer Found Guilty of Cruelty

FREEDOM has already commented on the trial of a Kenya Police Reserve Officer on a charge of torturing a Mau Mau suspect. The *Times'* Nairobi correspondent in a despatch dated April 4th describes the outcome:

"Barry Harvey Hayward, aged 17, a Kenya police reserve officer, of Nairobi screening camp, was fined £25 in the Nairobi Supreme Court on Saturday for a technical assault on a Mau Mau suspect during his interrogation at the camp.

"His action in flicking lighted matches at the suspect after water had been poured over his head (the suspect had been told that it was paraffin) was described by Mr. Justice McDuff as a 'form of mental torture' and 'almost criminally silly.'

"Sentence of two years' hard labour was passed on Guchu Gathiongo, a former Mau Mau leader, who worked with Hayward's screening team and who was found guilty of assault occasioning actual bodily harm on the suspect. He poured paraffin on the man's head and then set him on fire. The judge said to him: 'You are not wholly to blame, and possibly from the moral point of view others are even more to blame.'

"After a probation officer had read a report on Hayward, the judge told the youth that he was extremely fortunate in the lenient view that the jury had taken of his activity in the incident. The judge said he appreciated that Hayward was a youth, and that there was another K.P.R. officer present senior in rank and service, and also that Hayward's part of the interrogation inflicted no bodily harm. 'On the other hand,' he said, 'you had the strictest orders from your superiors about ill-treatment of prisoners. You were the officer in charge, and you not only lacked moral courage to carry out your duty and stop this ill-treatment but you even went so far as to join in with the others in what you regarded, according to your evidence, as the fun.'

"The judge also expressed concern at the failure of the two officers to make a full disclosure at the earliest opportunity of the whole circumstances. He told Hayward that he had suppressed his part in the early stages of the interrogation and had deliberately tried to suggest something which was undoubtedly false. The other officer had gone further, and had failed to admit his presence at all in the early stages or his active participation in it until he had been recalled by the court for further examination. 'I am forced to comment that this court anyway has always trusted a police officer or a K.P.R. officer as a truthful witness. This *suppressio veri et suggestio falsi* practised by both K.P.R. officers in this case suggests to me that this court may have been wrong in its assumption that such officers can be believed. In the result, if those officers had been successful in their efforts at suppression the second accused would have borne the full blame for the second and the most regrettable incident—a situation that would have been most unfair to him.'

POSTMEN WORK TO RULE

MORE than 2,500 London postmen have begun to work to rule as a protest against the rejection of their 18s. pay claim.

The men are in the parcels sections at Mount Pleasant and the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, and so far postmen in the letters section are not affected.

The action has started following a decision reached at a union branch meeting, but of course union officials are desperately trying to get the dispute settled, by getting the work-to-rule called off first.

A ban on overtime is part of the campaign and if no results on their pay claim is forthcoming, there is a likelihood that the go-slow may spread to other districts next week and eventually affect 25,000 men.

The Reich Persecutions Continue

The Lewiston Maine Daily Sun for Saturday, March 20, 1954, contains the following agency report:

PORTLAND, March 19—A.P.

A Federal judge to-day ordered a halt to distribution of "Orgone Accumulators" which Dr. Wilhelm Reich allegedly claims can funnel from the air cures for many ills, including atom war wounds.

Judge John D. Clifford, Jr., also ordered destruction of a dozen books or pamphlets distributed by The Wilhelm Reich Foundation of Rangely.

At the request of U.S. Dist. Atty. Peter Mills he also issued an injunction barring distribution of other printed matter unless representations pertaining to the existence of orgone energy and its accumulation by the accumulators are deleted.

The action stemmed from a U.S. Food and Drug Administration complaint in February. U.S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell, Jr., said then that Dr. Reich claims he has discovered atmospheric phenomena which he calls "orgone energy", allegedly capable of being transmitted into human bodies by accumulators for sale and rent.

The attorney general said Dr. Reich claimed that Orgone energy helps in treatment and prevention of a wide variety of ailments ranging from colds and bruises to cancer, bone fractures and "the effects of atomic warfare".

Named in to-day's injunction were the Foundation, Dr. Reich and Ilse Ollendorff, clerk of the Foundation corporation.

The injunction ordered a stop to interstate shipment of the accumulator devices allegedly misbranded; that all such devices already shipped be recalled to Rangely and destroyed or dismantled; that purchasers destroy their devices.

The government claims the accumulators are misbranded because of false and misleading claims. It said that "Orgone energy, which supposedly accumulates

inside this box without any electrical or other energy connection, is alleged to enter the bodies of sick individuals who sit inside and thus effect curative results."

The Food and Drug Administration said extensive investigation has concluded that there is no such energy and the accumulators are worthless in treatment of disease.

The Foundation had 20 days from Feb. 13 to answer the complaint but Mills said no response was made.

Dr. Reich, a psychoanalyst, was associated for a time in Vienna with the famed Dr. Sigmund Freud.

Dr. Reich Replies

Wilhelm Reich, in fact, did answer the Court, and we print below a slightly abridged version of his Response.

"Love, work and knowledge are the well-springs of our life. They should also govern it."

RESPONSE

Regarding the Request of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to Enjoin the Natural Scientific Activities of Wilhelm Reich, M.D.

In order to clarify the factual as well as the legal situation concerning the complaint, we must, from the very beginning, distinguish concrete facts from legal procedure to do justice to the facts.

Technically, legally the US Government has filed suit against the natural scientific work of Wilhelm Reich.

Factually, the FDA is not "THE US GOVERNMENT". It is merely one of its administrative agencies dealing with Foods, Drugs and Cosmetics. It is not empowered to deal with Basic Natural Law.

ORGONOMY (see BIBLIOGRAPHY on the HISTORY OF ORGONOMY) is a branch of BASIC NATURAL SCIENCE. Its central object of research is elucidation of the Basic Natural Law.

Now, in order to bring into line the legal procedure with the above-mentioned facts, the following is submitted:

The common law structure of the UNITED STATES rests originally on Natural Law. This Natural Law has heretofore been interpreted in various ways of thinking, metaphysically, religiously, mechanistically. It has never concretely and scientifically, been subjected to natural scientific inquiry based upon a discovery which encompasses the very roots of existence.

The concept of Natural Law as the foundation of a secure way of life, must firmly rest upon the practical concrete functions of LIFE itself. In consequence, a correct life-positive interpretation of Natural Law, the basis of common law, depends on the factual elucidation of what Life actually is, how it works, what are its basic functional manifestations. From this basic premise derive the claims of natural scientists to a free, un-molested, unimpeded, natural scientific activity in general and in the exploration of the Life Energy in particular.

The complaint of the FDA is factually intimately interconnected with a basic social issue which, at present, is reverberating in the lives of all of us here and abroad.

Abraham Lincoln once said: "What I do say is that no man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent. I say this is a leading principle, the sheet anchor of American republicanism."

Reich goes on to point out that people "whose aim it is to destroy human happiness and self-government" have to be restrained: "Is now the right of the conspirator to ravage humanity the same as my right to free, unimpeded inquiry? Obviously it is NOT THE SAME THING." And he then asserts the right of everyone to pursue free scientific enquiry, and denies all legal right to interfere with, or presume to direct, such enquiry.

No man-made law ever, no matter whether derived from the past or projected into a distant, unforeseeable future, can or should ever be empowered

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