

HOW SOON BEFORE THE H-BOMB IS OBSOLETE?

IN this Atomic cold war nothing is final except death. To-day political discussions are conducted with each side making a mental note of the other's H-bomb stocks as well as his available man power and conventional weapons. Defence is organised on this basis, and Civil Defence plans go ahead more or less remotely connected with what knowledge America imparts from her trial explosions. At some future date the geneticists will be able to predict what monsters will emerge in the post H-bomb era. But we are told that our Government is banking on the fact that their policy of "Peace through Strength" will ensure that we will never have to use the Hbomb. If everyone has the H-bomb no one will dare to use it. That's just what they said of the A-bomb, just as Mr. Churchill, and the advocates of a powerful Air Force before the last war, put forward the theory that if everyone had vast bombing squadrons then they could mutually destroy one another, and for that reason no one could use the bombing plane. Tracing this argument backwards we reach the bow and arrow stage if not the peashooter.

America will already have disposed of her stocks, under some Lend-Lease agreement, to a third rate South American republic. And this is the lunacy of the Peace through Strength policy; that no one is ever "strong" enough, for science is always discovering new phenomena and developing new techniques. Let Dr. Teller, the atomic scientist who is credited(?) with "sparking the idea that opened the way to the hydrogen bomb" explain what are the prospects.

known as the "cobalt bomb," a large hydrogen bomb encased in a shell of cobalt.

Such a bomb, when exploded at a distance, would transform the shell into a gigantic cloud of radioactive cobalt, equivalent to about five million pounds of radium. The cobalt cloud could be carried by the prevailing winds over areas of thousands of square miles, destroying all life, plant and animal, in its path. "The very size of our progress," Dr. Teller writes, "has opened up other dangers. We may be led to think that this accomplishment is something ultimate. I do not believe that this is so. "Where the next steps will lead I do not know. It is not likely that it will be just bigger bombs again." So as not to allow ourselves to be "surprised" by our potential enemies, Dr. Teller suggests that "the skills and the knowledge that developed the A-bomb and the H-bomb can undoubtedly be turned to new directions," emphasizing that "we shall fail if we rest upon our accomplishments." Some might say that atomic scientists in all countries have "accomplished" quite enough, and that the peace and sanity of the world might be saved if they were put to work on the land and their workshops of death were blown skyhigh by the smallest of atom-bombs in stock.

No Overtime Settlement in Docks -- Employers Provoke Action

THE advocates of negotiation, collaboration and procrastination must be feeling somewhat deflated at the latest announcements about the discussions between the unions and employers in the docks on the issue of overtime.

The tremendous strike of last autumn, in which the whole of the Port of London was brought to a standstill and thousands of dockers in Southampton, Merseyside, Hull and other ports also joined in, was brought to an end by the employers agreeing to end the practice of reporting dockers who declined to do overtime and to open discussions on the issue at stake: that overtime should be voluntary. Thirty-five thousand dockers struck for a month to establish that principle; they went back convinced they had won, for that is what their leaders told them. Now comes the news that after four months of negotiation the unions and the employers cannot come to an agreement, and the employers are reverting once more to their practice of reporting to the Dock Labour Board all dockers who refuse to do what, in the Board's view, is 'reasonable' overtime. This provoking action is likely to have precisely the same result as before. In our opinion, the dockers' reply should be solid and immediate-there should be a nation-wide stoppage of all portworkers. And we mean all, not only dockers but stevedores, watermen, warehousemen-everybody connected with port work. And this should be backed

up by a steady withdrawal of all subsidiary labour from any contract with the ports-electricians, road and rail transport workers, and so forth.

The high-handed action by the employers, directly talks break down, can only mean that the blame should be put fairly and squarely on their heads.

It has proved a fallacious argument in the past. Why then should it be applied to the H-Bomb? The

In a long article in the American official scientific journal Science he points out that the next major steps beyond the multi-megation hydrogen bomb are not likely to be "just bigger bombs again".

"The world is full of surprises," he writes, "and great developments rarely go along straight lines."

He did not know just where the next steps will lead, he said. However, in an article he wrote several years ago in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, he discussed the possibility of releasing radioactive clouds at a distance off our Pacific Coast that would enable an enemy to "make life hard or even impossible for us without delivering a single bomb into our territory."

One of the possible "surprises," not mentioned by Dr. Teller, is what is

The whole sorry story also shows the futility of these protracted negotiations. The port-workers got nearer to winning the principle of voluntary overtime by their direct action last autumn than all the negotiations going on since. Let them go in next time and settle the matter once and for all.

THE VOTE

IT is a myth perpetuated by democrats of all persuasions that the ballot, though imperfect, is the only way by which the people can express themselves.

Here's what the liberal News Chronicle had to say about it the other day:

'The British people have one-and only one-direct way of shaping the democratic government of the country. That is the vote.

But the form of Parliament rarely bears more than a rudimentary resemblance to the wishes of the electorate. Only two Governments since 1910 have been backed by more than half the voters.'

The Chronicle goes on to urge the appointment of a Royal Commission on

answer is because the H-bomb is so powerful that it can do damage which thousands of loaded bombing planes could not do. Because its effects are so disastrous no country would dare to use it. In the first place this is not true since America is prepared to use it in the event of aggression by Russia who, assuming it to be true that she has an overwhelming superiority of conventional weapons, could invade Western Europe without dropping a single H-bomb. But that is simply mentioned in passing, having only academic interest.

The real reason why the H-bomb may never be used is because by the time the next war breaks out it will have already become obsolete, and

Churchill - The B.B.C. & Democracy

when it was suggested to him that

the 1948 agreement should be drop-

ped and the advisability of discuss-

ing certain topics left to the "dis-

Answering one questioner, Sir

So far as I am concerned, I will never

reconsider it. I believe it would be a

shocking thing to have debates in this

House forestalled time after time by the

expressions of opinion of persons who

have not the status and responsibilities

Mr. E. Shinwell (Lab. Easington):

cretion" of the B.B.C.

Winston said:

FEW democratic citizens of this country were aware until a fortnight ago that an agreement had been made in 1948 between the B.B.C. and the political parties to the effect

(a) that the B.B.C. will not have discussions on ex parte statements on any issues for a period of a fortnight before they are debated in either House;

(b) that while matters are subjects of legislation M.P.s will not be used in such discussions.

But few of them have ever been so naive as to look upon the B.B.C. as an independent body, and those who did must have been dealt a bit-

apply this principle to commercial teleter blow by the banning of the Television as well when it starts? vision discussion on Britain's decis-Sir Winston: I certainly think it ion to make the H-Bomb, and by should be the same all round. Churchill's reply in the Commons

If, as Churchill says it is not "the will of the Government" but an "arrangement" then presumably the B.B.C. is at liberty to break it. But such does not appear in fact to be the position, and Sir Winston's dogmatic "I will never reconsider it" sounds to us very much like the boss talking, and certainly not one who is only a party to a gentleman's agreement!

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ONE could sympathise with Sir Winston's outburst at this "vast new robot organisation of television and B.B.C. broadcasts" if he had shunned its use himself for personal and party advantage. But he, no less that many second-rate comedians and parlour-game stars, owes much of his fame as a national figure to his frequent appearances before the B.B.C.'s microphones, and he should therefore be the last person to speak deprecatingly of this medium of entertainment, enlightenment or propaganda! It is, we suspect, just because the Prime Minister is aware of the power of Radio-Television to influence (or to form) public opinion, that he is so jealously guarding what he considers are the prerogatives of the House of Commons. But in so doing he is also declaring that "democracy" is a sham; that opinions are a monopoly of those members who have "status and responsibilities", and that they cannot be "forestalled" in their debates by the layman. How ridiculous this all is, when one considers that these debates are simply facades to create the impression of earnest discussion when in fact the government has already made up its mind, and the opposition, at its private meetings, has already issued its instructions to its members as to the party line. If "uninformed" opinion "forestalls" debate in the House, then how much Continued on p. 3

voting methods. What it will not do itto question the whole basis of majority rule nor, it goes without saying, the idea of government.

The passage quoted above is carefully worded. It talks of 'shaping the government' and that is in fact an accurate description of what can be achieved by the vote. We can 'shape' a government, but we cannot abolish it, by the vote. We can choose the individuals of which it will consist, but we cannot influence its policies, by the vote, once they are in power. We can choose our masters but we cannot control them, by the vote.

What even the Chronicle does not say, however, is that the people can express their own desires by the vote. That, we maintain, can only be done through each individual taking responsibility himself for the achievement of his aims. And truly free people do not hand over that responsibility to representatives, no matter how constitutionally and democratically the handover is arranged.

Transport Commission Ban Another Poster

THE banning of the Tribune posters advertising a mass meeting under the title Arm Germany?, by the London Transport, reminds us of our own experience with them a few years ago when we tried to get space for posters in the underground advertising a protest meeting against the trials and shootings in Spain of Anarchists and trade unionists. All arrangements were made; the cheque was written out; the posters were printed and some actually delivered when we were told that because of the political nature of the meeting the London Transport would be unable to put them up. Obviously the word political has a special interpretation for them, because at that time several underground sations had given space to the Liberal Party to advertise a political meeting.

S. WALES MINERS & FORMOSA

THE miners of South Wales have resorted to direct action many times in the past, with various aims and various measures of success.

threat of direct action has been made on such an important issue as that at Cardiff last week, when a conference of 200 delegates from the South Wales coalfields threatened to strike if Britain backs America in a war over Formosa. The conference passed a resolution warning the Government that 'in the event of any development to war in defence of Chiang Kai-shek, serious dislocation would result in this area of the mining industry'. Now this seems to us to be an expression of an attitude which should be taken up by workers-not only minersthroughout the country and, indeed, throughout the world. As long as 'opposition to war' is limited to pious appeals to the 'good will' of the rulers of the world and the only resultant action is the signing of petitions, governments will sit back and laugh, going ahead with their war plans irrespective of what their subjects think. If, on the other hand, governments knew that an attempt to go to war would land them straight in a revolutionary situation, they would very soon find alternative methods of solving their international differences. We should like to see the people of this country so aware of what a war would mean to them that. in Alex Comfort's words, the very talk ing their keep then.

of war would 'empty the factories and fill the streets."

We do not know who did the organising and took the initiative for this It is many years, however, since any South Wales conference, so we are not able to denounce it as a Communist stunt. We can only hope that the Communists were not the prime movers although clearly they would muscle in on it if possible whoever started it. The miners of South Wales, however, are not such political innocents as the Commies would like them to be, and there are probably many thousands who would support an anti-war stand while at the same time knowing full well that the C.P.'s 'Peace' line is in no way a reflection of their concern for the welfare of the workers of this country, but merely an expression of their loyalty to another government.

Does not the Prime Minister recognise that debates in this House are frequently forestalled by discussion in the press? Is there much to be lost by having similar discussions on the radio or television? Surely-while discretion must obviously be exercised in debates and discussions of this kind on the radio where industrial

of members.

All parties, however, including the Communist Party, are concerned that the workers should not realise their strength. For all parties will be equally redundant when the workers discover the means toexpress themselves directly without the middle-men and misleaders.

In the meantime, let the lead given by the South Wales miners' delegates be taken up. Instead of asking the Government to please not land us in a war if it can possibly help it, it should be made perfectly clear that the first reaction by the workers of this country to a war situation will be to down tools. Our diplomats will very soon start earnpolitical issues are involved there can be no objection?

disputes are involved, where merely

Sir Winston: On the contrary, I always attach great importance to Parliament and the House of Commons.

I am sure that the bringing on of exciting debates in this vast new robot organisation of television and B.B.C. broadcasts timed to take place before debates in this House may have a very deleterious effect on our general interest. Members should consider the interests of the House to which we all owe a lot. Mr. Shinwell: Does not what the Prime Minister has said mean that the B.B.C. is not an independent authority, but is subject to the will of the Government?

Sir Winston: No, sir. It is not a question of the will of the Government, but an arrangement which was reached after a good deal of thought between the leaders of both parties and people in them. It is easy to turn against this arrangement on any particular case, but I think the House would be well advised to stay where they are before they yield up a great deal of the significance and dignity of the House.

Mr. P. C. Gordon-Walker (Lab. Smethwick): Won't he take steps to

Morals with Religion ?

The Archbish of Canerbury yesterday told how he met the prisoners' choir in Maidstone Jail.

"I was prompted to ask 'How many of you were once choirboys?"" said Dr. Fisher. "Believe it or not, practically the whole lot of them had been.

"I can't point any moral for that," he added. He was addressing Kent County Association of Teachers at Canterbury.

Sunday Express, 27/2/55.

AT the beginning of 1937 when members of the Left Book Club were reading The Road to Wigan Pier, with discomfort at Orwell's diatribe against the charactistics of English socialists, its author was shivering in a trench in the hills round Zaragoza. He went to Spain he says, "with some idea of writing newspaper articles", but "had joined the militia almost immediately because at that time and in that atmosphere it seemed the only conceivable thing to do". The slow train which took him down through France was crowded with Czechs, Germans and Frenchmen all bound on the same mission.

About halfway down France the ordinary passengers dropped off. There might still be a few nondescript journalists like myself, but the train was practically a troop train, and the countryside knew it. In the morning, as we crawled across southern France, every peasant working in the fields turned round, stood solemly upright and gave the anti-Fascist salute. They were like a guard of honour, greeting the train mile after mile.1

ORWELL & ANARCHISM-2

in a revolutionary city with an atmosphere which moved and excited him.

The Anarchists were still in virtual control of Catalonia and the revolution was still in full swing. To anyone who had been there since the beginning it probably seemed even in December or January that the revolutionary period was ending; but when one came straight from England the aspect of Barcelona was something startling and overwhelming. It was the first time that I had ever been in a town where the working class was in the saddle . . . Above all, there was a belief in the revolution and the future, a feeling of having suddenly emerged into an era of equality and freedom. Human beings were trying to behave as human beings and not cogs in the capitalist machine. In the barber's shop were Anarchist notices (the barbers were mostly Anarchists) solemnly explaining that barbers were no longer slaves. In the streets were coloured posters appealing to prostitutes to stop being prostitutes. To anyone from the hard-boiled sneering civilisation of the English-speaking races there was something rather pathetic in

the literalness with which these idealistic Spaniards took the hackneyed phrases of revolution.²

The real nature and significance of the war in Spain and the irreconcilable differences within the antifascist 'front' had been concealed from the outside world and at first Orwell did not grasp them:

When I came to Spain, and for some time afterwards, I was not only uninterested in the political situation but unaware of it . . . If you had asked me why I had joined the militia I should have answered: 'To fight against Fascism,' and if you had asked me what was fighting for I should have answered: 'Common decency'. I had accepted the News Chronicle-New Statesman version of the war as the defence of civilization against a maniacal outbreak by an army of Colonel Blimps in the pay of Hitler. The revolutionary atmosphere of Barcelona had attracted me deeply, but I had made no attempt to understand it. knew that I was serving in something called the P.O.U.M. (I had only joined the P.O.U.M. militia rather than any other because I happened to arrive in Barcelona with I.L.P. papers), but I did

not realise that there were serious differences between the political parties.³

The actual nature of the popular revolution, and the half-heartedness of the Popular Front government in the face of Franco's rising is described by Orwell in these terms:

For the first few months of the war Franco's real opponent was not so much the Government as the trade unions. As soon as the rising broke out the organised town workers replied by calling a general strike and then by demanding-and, after a struggle, getting-arms from the public arsenals. If they had not acted spontaneously and more or less independently it is quite conceivable that Franco would never have been resisted. There can, of course, be no certainty about this, but there is at least reason for thinking it. The Government had made little or no attempt to forestall the rising, which had been foreseen for a long time past, and when the trouble started its attitude was weak and hesitant, so much so, indeed, that Spain had three premiers in a single day. Moreover, the one step that could save the immediate situation, the arming of the workers, was only taken unwillingly and in response to violent popular clamour. However, the arms were distributed, and in the big towns of Eastern Spain the Fascists were defeated by a huge effort, mainly of the working class, aided by some of the armed forces (Assault Guards, etc.) who had remained loyal. It was the kind of effort that could probably only be made by people who were fighting with a revolutionary intention-i.e. believed that they were fighting for something better than the status quo. In the various centres of revolt it is thought that three thousand people died in the streets in a single day. Men and women armed only with sticks of dynamite rushed across the open squares and stormed stone buildings held by trained soldiers with machine-guns. Machinegun nests that the Fascists had placed at strategic spots were smashed by rushing taxis at sixty miles an hour. Even if one had heard nothing of the seizure of the land by the peasants, the setting up of local soviets, etc., it would be hard to

FREEDOM

was no more than a centralized swindling machine.

Manwhile the workers had weapons in their hands, and at this stage they refrained from giving them up. (Even a year later it was computed that the Anarcho-Syndicalists in Catalonia possessed 30,000 rifles). The estates of the big pro-Fascist landlords were in many places seized by the peasants. Along with the collectivization of industry and transport there was an attemut to set up the rough beginnings of a workers' government by means of local committees, workers' patrols to replace the old procapitalist police forces, workers' militias based on the trade unions, and so forth. Of course the process was not uniform, and it went further in Catalonia than elsewhere. There were areas where the institutions of local government remained almost untouched, and others where they existed side by side with revolutionary committees. In a few places independent Anarchist communes were set up, and some of them remained in being till about a year later, when they were forcibly suppressed by the Government. In Catalonia, for the first few months, most of the actual power was in the hands of the Anarcho-Syndicalists, who controlled most of the key industries. The thing that had happened in Spain was, in fact, not merely a civil war, but the beginning of a revolution. It is this fact that the anti-Fascist press outside Spain has made it its special business to obscure. The issue has been narrowed down to 'Fascism versus democracy' and the revolutionary aspect concealed as much as possible. In England, where the press is more centralized and the public more easily deceived than elsewhere, only two versions of the Spanish war have had any publicity to speak of: the Right-wing version of Christian patriots versus Bolsheviks dripping with blood, and the Left-wing version of gentlemanly republicans quelling a military revolt. The central issue has been successfully covered up.4

When he arrived in Barcelona in December, 1936, he found himself

Police Powers and Your Rights

WHO says we don't live in a Police in turn may sue for wrongful arrest. State? Anyone who has had dealings with the not-so-gentle men in blue knows better. And anyone who has tried to bring police abuses before those in authority will also know that the donkey might as well request his owner to burn the whip that does the beating.

For a long time there has been a crying need for a brief, clear statement of police powers and citizens' rights. Can a large, trained thug stop you in the street and demand that you turn out your pockets or brief case just because he has a uniform and doesn't like your hair style? Well, it all depends. Technically he is entitled to do so provided he has reasonable grounds for believing that you are in possession of stolen property or an offensive weapon. In effect, since you never know what the position is you just have to put up with it. If you have the nerve to imagine you are a free man in a free country you may exercise your right to ask why the demand is being made, and if the reply doesn't satisfy you then you may refuse to comply. The man with the funny helmet may then arrest you. You

Whether or not you succeed in teaching him to be more careful when he breaks the Law in future will depend on such reasonable factors as the magistrate's personality and whether or not he had pleasant night and good breakfast.

In any case your chances of success are next to nil without a reputable independent witness of blameless mein and sober habits. For there is an unwritten law that policemen cannot lie, and short of a tape-recording or statement written in the copper's own hairy hand there is little hope of upsetting this authoritarian dogma.

The little booklet recently published by the N.C.C.L. deals with this sort of problem in a quiet, matter of fact style that none the less leaves you with no illusions as to how far along the road to serfdom we have been driven. At this stage of the rot it is essential that we do not give an inch more than is necessary. It is as well to know, for instance, that the police are not entitled to make you give them your name and address simply because you have addressed a public meeting. Again, whenever actually charged, refuse to make a statement and answer no questions, except for giving your name and address, until you have taken legal advice. Under no circumstances plead guilty.

may, at some unmentioned future date, commit some undefined breach of the peace; there is no room in this country for a political police." Perfectly true, but the only reason there is no room is because the vacancy has long since been filled. There is no such thing as a police force which is not employed as a political weapon.

The charge of conspiracy is equally vile and all-embracing. "A charge of conspiracy is often the last resort of the authorities when they want to put a stop to some activity which does not obviously infringe the criminal law . . .

"It consists in the agreement of two or more persons to do an unlawful act, or to do a lawful act by unlawful means. The essence of the offence is in the AGREEMENT: it is not necessary to prove that the contemplated act was or would have been carried out. Consequently, proof of the offence often rests largely on inference and this puts the defence at a disadvantage." So it is only the Americans who are on the totalitarian road, eh? We wouldn't lock a chap up just because he reads the wrong books, thinks the wrong thoughts or meets the wrong people, would we? Not somehow. When the day comes that the boys with their backsides in the saddle decide to have a witch-hunt they need only enforce the law as they find it. And if you think it is only members of the Communist Party who will get it in the neck, have another think, chum. They may be the first to go for a Burton, but your turn to look down the wrong end of the barrel will come. This is one book we do not expect to find reviewed in The Listener.

ORWELL'S company of the P.O.U.M. militia was sent to a stationary part of the Aragon front in the hills around Zaragoza and after about three weeks in the line he was sent to a new position further west where an I.L.P. contingent from England had arrived. In the middle of February all the P.O.U.M. troops in the sector were sent to the seige of Huesca. At the end of for Continued on p. 3

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There are dozens of points like this that are discussed in the chapters on Right of Search and Seizure, Arrest and Bail, etc., which are well worth mastering in order to protect yourself against abuses that happen not to be covered by legal camouflage.

To cap everything the last couple of pages enlighten us on the operation of two legal procedures that demonstrate that a dictator does not even need to introduce new legislation in order to make his Police State fully effective.

"It sometimes happens that when the authorities desire to stop some form of activity which is not a breach of any law, the police bring the person concerned before a Court and ask the Court to order him to produce surety for his good behaviour for a stated period of time. This will involve the forfeiture of a sum of money if he is found not to have been of good behaviour during the period stated. In the event of his failing to provide surety, he may be imprisoned. "It is not necessary to prove any offence whatsoever and the procedure may be used to deal with people whom the Magistrate believes may later commit a breach of the peace, although, up to the time they are brought before the Magistrate, they have not committed any breach of the peace or any criminal offence. There is no appeal against the Magistrate's decision . . . ' As the N.C.C.L. points out this vicious piece of legal chicanery has been invoked consistently against progressive elements such as the suffragettes and Hunger Marchers, but our public "servants" were careful not to use it during a fascist anti-semitic campaign. Are we surprised? After all, such outbursts may be embarrassing, but no decent chap would want to jail his friends just for letting their enthusiasm run away with them, would he? "It is to be hoped that public opinion will before long put an end to a situation in which a man or woman, guilty of no offence, may be imprisoned without the chance of an appeal, merely because the police do not like his views and can persuade a magistrate that he R.T.G.

A GOOD COMRADE

WAS very sad to hear of the death of Douglas Muir Mac-Taggart. It is so difficult to believe that someone you knew so recently in the fulness of his powers now no longer exists. I had the honour and pleasure of speaking on the platform with him, at one of his Slough meetings. To carry on propaganda work in such an apathetic area required courage of no mean order, though it is rare for such courage to reach the headlines even of local papers, as it did in this case. He had a kindly and friendly character, and can have made no enemies. By his death the anarchist movement has lost considerably. There are so few anarchists, and fewer still with his courage and energy.

local soviets, etc., it would be hard to believe that the Anarchists and Socialists who were the backbone of the resistance were doing this kind of thing for the preservation of capitalist democracy, which especially in the Anarchist view

CINEMA -SEVEN SAMURAI

AT the 1951 Film Festival when the Japanese film Rashomon burst upon the world and won the grand prix, it revealed in its director Akira Kurosawa a new and formidable talent. His latest film Seven Samurai (now running at the Academy Cinema, London) proves him to be a master and the best interpreter his country could wish for. It is a work which will take its place among the epics of the cinema, mature in conception and philosophy and outstanding in its technical brilliance. Above all it is completely intelligible to western audiences. Surely this is the hall-mark of a great work of art, that it can be understood without difficulty by all nations and creeds.

Seven Samurai is a historical film set in the 16th century, a period of civil war and brigandage. A poor village is raided every year by warrior bandits who carry off its harvest and its maidens. The men of the village hold a meeting to find a solution against this repeated outrage. They decide to find some Samurai, or professional warriors, to help them in their defence against the terror. but as they have no money and nothing to offer but poor food and lodgings they must try to find Samurai who are unemployed and hungry. They manage to enlist a veteran warrior, Kambei, who in his turn recruits six others. Of these, four are experienced fighters, one is a young apprentice and one a peasant whose entire family has been wiped out, and who is determined to join in the battle in order to avenge himself himself and his people. He is the only one not 'of gentle birth', a required qualification, an undaunted spirit who does not find it easy to conform to military discipline. While waiting for the harvest, plans to deal with the invaders are carefully prepared by Kambei. When the crops are harvested the bandits begin their raids and the rest of the film deals at great length with the defence of the village. The film runs for two and a half hours. it is ferocious and brutal at times but unerringly true. The director sees his people with insight and compassion and the sheer force and excitement of the battle scenes sweeps us right into the life.

centre of the action. The battle, and the air of the country with its birds and its flowers are brought to our very nostrils more vividly than CinemaScope, Cinerama or any other new-fangled technical device could. The lyrical part of the film which deals with the love of the young Samurai apprentice for the village girl is simple and touching.

The portrayal of Kambei, the leader of the Samurai is outstanding. Here is a man of true nobility devoted utterly to his calling and acting only on the dictates of his conscience. A born strategist and a leader of men. A man of action with a meditative sadness and the devotion and tenderness of a priest. The part is played so perfectly by Takashi Shimura that one hesitates to speak of acting. Though it should be remembered that the same player was in the film Rashomon playing the totally different part of the bandit.

Toshiro Mifune is the peasant Samu-

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He sought the meaning of life in the works of existentialist philosophy that he was always reading. Perhaps he found that our existence is essentially without meaning and purpose.

"With them the seed of wisdom did I sow. And with mine own hands wrought to make it grow. And this was all the harvest that I reaped, I came like water, and like wind 1 go.'

A.W.U.

rai, the 16th century equivalent of the displaced person. He is like a dumb animal with such a violence of emotion pent up inside him that he can only give vent to it by whoops of unbridled savage joy. A stunted fool for whom our hearts bleed. He serves to remind us what happens to victims of violence and outrage who finally find an outlet in an even more savage violence of reprisal

The film can in many ways be related to our own day, th desperate little village, standing up for itself at last, has a parallel with Israel in its early days of Arab terrorism. And its ultimate message would seem to be that there never can be any satisfaction in destruction and slaughter. At the end, when the village is saved from the aggressor and the planting of rice begins anew, the three surviving Samurai are left quietly surveying the graves of their fallen comrades. It is the leader of the warriors who sums up their feelings. For the soldier nothing has been gained. "It is not we who have won, it is the peasants. They have their earth again. while we have nothing and nowhere." The earth for which they have had to fight so bitterly is theirs at last, to sow the precious seed that will create new D.

Freedom

March 5, 1955

CHURCHILL-The B.B.C. and DEMOCRACY

Continued from p. 1

Vol. 16, No. 10

more pernicious to free debate are the party Whips who have reduced the House to a bunch of "yes" and "no" men whose principal function is to be available in the lobbies when the time comes to go through with the formality of voting! Not that parliamentary democracy has ever been other than a sham; now

American View of Comics

SEDUCTION OF THE INNO-CENT, by Fredric Wertham, M.D. (Museum Press, 21s.).

DR. WERTHAM is an American psychiatrist who has been campaigning for many years for the banning of what he calls 'comic books' and what in this country are known as 'horror comics'. This book (which runs to nearly 400 pages) is a rambling, ill-arranged collection of partial case-histories, descriptions of comics and of their evil effects on children.

Much printers' ink has been used and many indignant speeches made in this country in the cause of censoring these comics-and the most highly charged epithets used to describe them. A typical specimen occurs in Hansard for Nov. 30, 'We must . . . do something to protect our youngsters from the diabolical influence of these comics'. It is as well, however, to be aware of what these comics do contain. From examples quoted by Dr. Wertham and from other sources it is clear that they depict more than just that violence which is to be found, for example, in the British Hotspur or Rover or any of the magazines dealing in the clean-limbed-hero-againstfearful-odds type of story which are usually considered suitable for children. Sadistic and masochistic scenes are common, the emphasis is on exploits where somebody takes advantage of somebody else, violently, sexually, or threateningly -the theme of hate is present in almost every story. To give but one instance (quoted in this book)—'the hero throws bombs and a Negro from his airplane. A picture shows the bombs and the Negro in mid-air while the hero calls out: "Bombs and bums away!"'.

marks on the significance of juvenile delinquency are very much to the point: There is an enormous literature on juvenile delinquency. One might think that society hopes to exorcise it by the magic of printers' ink. It would seem that the real scientific problem is conveniently overlooked. Juvenile delinquency does not just happen, for this or that reason. It is continuously recreated by adults. So the question should be, Why do we continuously recreate it? Even more than crime, juvenile delinquency reflects the social values current in a society. Both adults and children absorb these social values in their daily lives . . . Juvenile delinquency holds a mirror up to society and society does not like the picture there.

AN

So it goes in for all kinds of recrimination directed at the children, including such facile, high-sounding name-calling as "hysteroid personality", "hysterocompulsive personality", and "schizophrenic tendencies"."

In spite of these remarks, however, Dr. Wertham dismisses in one sentence what is the central problem of horror comics when he says 'the question should not be so much why children get the habit as how are so many of them able to protect their integrity against them' But why they are so popular with children is the question. Some 80 millions of these comics are produced each month in the U.S.A. and most of them pass through several hands, being sold and re-sold. According to one survey. quoted by Dr. Wertham, of children in grades 4 to 6 it was found that the average child read 14.5 comics a week.

How can these high figures be explained? Unless one believes that children are by nature evil it cannot be maintained that they have a natural appetite for such fare. As Dr. Wertham says in the passage quoted above children absorb the social values current in their environment. Would so many comics be sold if newspapers did not give sensational reports of every sordid crime? if Hollywood did not produce films glorifying violence and war? if the atmosphere of war-preparation was replaced by a peaceful one? if the exploitation of sexual emotions for commercial profit ceased? If, in fact, the positive and constructive factors of society were dominant and not the negative and destructive ones. Horror comics would have few readers in a healthy societythey are a sign of a sick one.

M.G.W.

it is also a tragic farce.

*

IF the popular press moulds public opinion, how much greater are the powers of Radio and Television to destroy independent thinking, either through the build-up of personalities, or by reducing ideas simply to a choice between viewpoints which differ sometimes on matters of detail but never on fundamentals. This, with very few exceptions is the pattern of all the quiz, forum, or panel programmes put out. And the added danger is that more and more of the people's leisure hours will be taken up with listening and viewing at the expense of reading and discussion which are the only channels available to progressive movements to express their views and develop their thought. We are no Radio, Television or Press Luddites. But we are passionately opposed to all Monopolies whether they be of motor car tyres and electric lamps or ideas and facts.

How to break down this monopoly is not simply a matter of converting the Press to a higher concept of its rôle in society. We cannot ignore the fact that to-day the newspapers which are the most objective in their presentation of the news. and intelligent in their expression of opinion, have the smallest circulations; only the most scurrilous of the fraternity enjoy circulations that run into millions. The need to-day therefore is as much for objective readers as for objective newspapers. This was the theme developed by a speaker in New York recently in a series of lectures organised by one of the most objective of newspapers The New York Times Theodore M. Bernstein, assistant managing editor of The New York Times. acknowledged that the posture of objectivity was difficult to maintain in the face of heated pressures. Readers demand objectivity, he said, until their own oxen happen to be gored. But he held that "neutral" readers as well as "neutral" newspapers were needed if the democratic system was to work.

The evidence which Dr. Wertham puts forward to support his contention that these comics encourage delinquent behaviour in children is impressive—and would be more so if it were not presented in such a scrappy fashion. His re-

"Every one is by nature constituted to be his or her own government, his own law, his own church—each individual is a system within himself; and the great problem must be solved with the broadest admission of the right of individuality which forbids any attempt to govern each other, and confines all our legislation to the adjustment and regulation of our intercourse or commerce with each other." —JOSIAH WARREN.

Problems of Old People

ANARCHIST'S

NOTEBOOK-

ONE of the tragic problems of old age was brought home to us last week when an old age pensioner collapsed and died after waiting two hours in the bitter cold, with thousands of others, to collect concession tickets on Glasgow corporation transport. Several others collapsed as a result of the cold. Until the allocation was completed the old folk had to continue to queue the following day. but the staff of 18 was increased to 54.

Free or reduced tickets on public transport is a sound enough idea for the needy, but any benefits which may result must be completely lost by the unimaginative and inhuman methods of distribution. Anyone who has ever had the misfortune to stand about in Glasgow on a winter's day, as well as to travel in the inadequate transport of that gloomy city must feel something of the misery of these old people, brought to the city chambers to collect their 'benefits'.

Why could the tickets not be sent through the post, or issued with the weekly pensions, or simply issue the pensioners with a permanent card indicating that the holder is an old age pensioner? The point is that the authorities are generally so concerned with seeing that these miserable concessions are not 'abused', and having the old people on the spot signing for them is one easy way of checking their credentials.

Worker Priests Revised WE have heard nothing of the worker

priest movement since it was disbanded last year in France, because of the corrupting secular influences on the worker priests which resulted in many of them being absorbed into the working class struggle to the exclusion of their priestly duties. The Lenten pastoral letter of Cardinal Feltin, Archbishop of Paris, however, contains references to a new revised form of the 'mission to the industrial worker'. The Cardinal writes that the workers are hostile to the Church, but the Church is capable of acting among the men of the 20th century as a witness for Christ, and the rôle of the priests will be to implant the Catholic Church once more among the proletariat from which it is almost totally absent. They must not, however, accept all the attitudes and reactions of the workers, even if these tend under pressure of surrounding atmosphere to coincide spontaneously with their own reactions.

It is unlikely that the workers of France who had contact with the old worker priest movement will have forgotten the rumpus raised by the Church when the priests took their working class support too far; even the French clergy were more than critical of the Vatican reaction. In view of this and the limitations in the form of safeguards placed on the worker priests, it is unlikely that, from the point of view of the Church, the new mission will be very successful.

public reaction to the West Bromwich bus men on strike over the employment of an Indian trainee conductor, says that it is one of outright condemnation. He claims that a great deal of the hostile reaction is due to the high opinion which "has been earned by the coloured workers who have been in the town for the last five years". It is also true, however, that the public reaction to a strike is often one of annoyance because of inconvenience felt rather than sympathy, or not, with the issues involved. We hope however that wisdom and decency have inspired the West Bromwich people on this occasion.

An article in the journal of the Post Office Workers' Union, The Post, directed at trade unionists indicates an intelligent approach to coloured labour which many trade unions would do well to emulate. The writer comments that trade unionists must be "prepared to undergo a long course of mental and emotional therapy. Either that or declare to the world that all men are not brothers under the skin". Quoting from a memorandum on West Indian Immigration which had been prepared and forwarded to the T.U.C. by the Ministry of Labour Staff Association, which concludes that "while there was no specific evidence available about the attitude of trade unionists to coloured workers, it appeared that often, either by formal or tacit local agreement with employers, coloured workers were rejected", the writer points out that these rejects are full citizens of the British Empire.

How to break through this vicious circle is a problem of the first importance not only for anarchists but for all progressively-minded people in every sphere of human activity. And at no time was it greater than to-day with the development of new media of communication such as Television which, like the Radio and the Press, could be a powerful instrument for enriching people's lives and knowledge, but which, like them, is fast becoming a weapon for converting man into a grotesque creature who sees but has no fantasy, who hears but does not understand, and who is mute. A gross exaggeration? Well, perhaps not mute. But join your fellows at the local pub, or at a "middle-class" party or some such gathering, and eavesdrop their talk. It would only need someone to produce a Whitaker's Almanach and a Bradshaw Timetable to make all further "conversation" redundant! The real menace to mankind is not the H-Bomb but man's stupidity, a view shared by Sir Winston, it one reads him between the lines. But whereas he and his kind thrive on it . . . we despair, and shout in the hope that some may hear and heed our warnings.

Continued from p. 2 April he returned to Barcelona on leave. There, he and his wife (who was John McNair's secretary at the I.L.P.'s office in Barcelona) witnessed the events known as the "May Days" which marked the virtual end of the revolution and the turningpoint of the war. In defining the standpoint of the various factions Orwell puts the anarchist position thus:

In any case the loose term 'Anarchists' is used to cover a multitude of people of very varying opinions. The huge block of unions making up the C.N.T. (Confederacion Nacional de Trabajadores), with round about two million members in all, had for its political organ the F.A.I. (Federacion Anarquista Iberica), an actual Anarchist organization. But even the members of the F.A.I., though always tinged, as perhaps most Spaniards are, with the Anarchist philosophy, were not necessarily Anarchists in the purest sense. Especially since the beginning of the war they had moved more in the direction of ordinary Socialism, because circumstances had forced them to take part in centralized administration and even to break all their principles by entering the Government. Nevertheless they differed fundamentally from the Communists in so much that, like the P.O.U.M., they aimed at workers' control and not a parliamentary democracy. They accepted the P.O.U.M. slogan: 'The war and the revolution are inseparable' though they were less dogmatic about it. Roughly speaking, the C.N.T.-F.A.I. stood for: (1) Direct control over industry by the workers engaged in each industry, e.g., transport, the textiles factories, etc.; (2) Government by local committees and resistance to all forms of centralized authoritarianism; (3) Uncompromising hostility to the bourgeoisie and the Church. The last point, though the least precise, was the most important. The Anarchists were the opposite of the majority of soThe tragedy of old age is not only the problem of food, clothing and shelter, but the loneliness felt by old people without family or interests.

Coloured Workers THE Manchester Guardian's special correspondent (26/2/55), writing on the

the counter-revolution. Homage to

Catalonia and Vernon Richards'

Lessons of the Spanish Revolution

are the only works in print in the

English language which interpret

these events in any detail. The

theme of Richards' book, the whit-

tling away of the popular revolu-

tion by the leaders of the revolution-

ary factions in the alleged interests

of the struggle against Franco, is

illustrated by many of Orwell's ob-

servations. Of the"May Days" he

writes, "On the Anarchist side the

action was almost certainly spontan-

eous, for it was an affair mainly of

control of the trade unions were taken over by the Government (the seizure of the Barcelona Telephone Exchange, which led to the May fighting, was one incident in this process); finally, most important of all, the workers' militias, based on the trade unions, were gradually broken up and redistributed among the new Popular Army, a 'non-political army on semi-bourgeois lines, with a differential pay rate, a privileged officercaste, etc., etc. In the special circumstances this was the really decisive step; it happened later in Catalonia than elsewhere because it was there that the revolutionary parties were strongest.6

For Orwell, "the issue was clear enough. On one side the C.N.T., on the other side the police. I have no particular love for the idealized 'worker' as he appears in the bourgeois Communist's mind, but when I see an actual flesh-and-blood worker in conflict with his natural enemy, the policeman, I do not have to ask myself which side I am on." He had decided to leave the P.O.U.M. and to go to another front when his leave was over. "As far as my purely personal preferences went I would have liked to join the Anarchists", but events sent him back to Huesca where he was wounded. He was sent to hospital at Lerida and from there to Barcelona. The F.O.U.M. had been suppressed. His friends were arrested, his wife's room was searched, and after futile attempts to secure the release of Georges Kopp, they slipped out of Spain, one step ahead of the police.

ORWELL & ANARCHISM

called revolutionaries in so much that though their principles were rather vague their hatred of privilege and injustice was perfectly genuine. Philosophically, Communism and Anarchism are poles apart. Practically-i.e. in the form of society aimed at-the difference is mainly one of emphasis, but it is quite irreconcilable. The Communist's emphasis is always on centralism and efficiency, the Anarchist's on liberty and equality. Anarchism is deeply rooted in Spain and is likely to outlive Communism when the Russian influence is withdrawn. During the first two months of the war it was the Anarchists more than anyone else who had saved the situation, and much later than this the Anarchist militia, in spite of their indiscipline, were notoriously the best fighters among the purely Spanish forces. From about February 1937 onwards the Anarchists and the P.O.U.M. could to some extent be lumped together. If the Anarchists, the P.O.U.M. and the Left wing of the Socialists had had the sense to combine at the start and press a realistic policy, the history of the war might have been different. But in the early period, when the revolutionary parties seemed to have the game in their hands, this was impossible. Between the Anarchists and the Socialists there were ancient jealousies, the P.O.U.M., as Marxists, were sceptical of Anarchism, while from the pure Anarchist standpoint the 'Trotskyism' of the P.O.U.M. was not much preferable to the 'Stalinism' of the Communists. Nevertheless the Communist tactics tended to drive the two parties together. When the P.O.U.M. joined in the disastrous fighting in Barcelona in May, it was mainly from an instinct to stand by the C.N.T., and later, when the P.O.U.M. was suppressed, the Anarchists were the only people with dared to raise a voice in its defence.5

ORWELL devotes a large part of his book to the 'May Days' and the rank and file. The people came into the streets and their political leaders followed reluctantly, or did not follow at all". And of-the counter-revolution as a whole:

There was no general and obvious counter-revolutionary move, and until May 1937, it was scarcely necessary to use force. The workers could always be brought to heel by an argument that is almost too obvious to need stating: 'Unless you do this, that and the other we shall lose the war.' In every case, need less to say, it appeared that the thing demanded by military necessity was the surrender of something that the workers had won for themselves in 1936. But the argument could hardly fail, because to lose the war was the last thing that the revolutionary parties wanted; if the war was lost democracy and revolution, Socialism and Anarchism, became meaningless words. The Anarchists, the only revolutionary party that was big enough to matter, were obliged to give way on point after point. The process of collectivization was checked, the local committees were got rid of, the workers' patrols were abolished and the pre-war police forces, largely reinforced and very heavily armed, were restored, and various key industries which had been under the

SOURCES:

1 Tribune 15/9/1944. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Homage to Catalonia (1938).

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In next week's issue we will outline Orwell's conclusions on the Spanish War and his attitude to the second World War.

FREEDOM

criticism (some of it honest, but much of it just mean tittle-tattle), what is one to say? Psychologists tend to fill their books with accounts of how they succeeded where other psychologists failed, but of their own failures, and their rivals' successes, we hear nothing. Omar Khayyam's "two and seventy jarring sects" are nothing to it. Surely the truth is that they all have something to contribute, and that different methods of analysis may succeed with different people?

As a layman I find it a depressing spectacle, because I believe that a greater understanding of human psychology is the only thing that will save humanity. I am sure, though, that were any one of these psychological sects to gain political power, as religions have in the past, it would proceed to persecute all its rivals. I met a dianetician once, who assured me that if a sufficient number of people could be freed from their neuroses (become "clears" in their terminology) they would be able then to govern the world for its own good, and lead us to a better

AM sorry that Comrade Hooton has thrown me out of the anarchist movement. In the "Conquest of Nature" he writes, "Mr. Arthur W. Uloth . . . is opposed to the war on nature. He must therefore, in effect, support a war on man . . . He says the world is not man's enemy. Well, just what is the enemy? There is only man and the world, man's environment. Man can do one only of two things-wage war on the world outside himself, or wage war on himself, And since Mr. Uloth won't have war on the world, we can only assume that he accepts war on man.

"But of course, Mr. Uloth does not accept the necessity for any war-he does not see man as a warlike animal. He hates destruction. This means he must hate anarchism. He could not agree with Bakunin's statement: 'The urge to destroy is also the creative urge'."

It seems a pity to be bundled out so unceremoniously, but I still consider myself an anarchist, even if I don't always approve of Bakunin's way of putting things. But in this case I do agree with what he said. He was referring to social institutions that harm men. I am exceedingly eager to destroy things that harm mankind. I want to destroy the state, as well as the germs of disease.

A MIXED BAG **Conquest of Nature - Flying Saucers - Closed System**

science no doubt, but if progress were to be slower and more cautious, and more patience than dash were to be shown, this would probably not be the

case.

I do not think that the world is really ready for space-travel yet. As long as the present social order persists there can be no doubt that it would only be used to make war more deadly. The discovery of atomic energy was equally tragic, coming when it did. Let us hope that an anarchist society will be in existence before the first spaceship takes off.

Comrade Hooton mentions the domestication of animals as an example of the beneficent conquest of nature. In my opinion the taming of animals is an extremely barbarous business, and produces a very authoritarian outlook in those who do it. Personally I have no desire even to own a dog, a sthe housetraining of it, which involves the infliction of punishment, is altogether repugnant to me.

but only by study and investigation. The narrow-minded sceptic is just as likely to be wrong as the narrow-minded believer. And this does not only apply to "flying saucers". Surely to laugh at a thing, simply because it is out of the ordinary, is not a scientific attitude, is it? Yet it is too often the way of those who call themselves scientific.

Some accounts of these mysterious objects are obviously faked. But this cannot explain all of them. It seems that the only thing that we can say at present is that we do not know what these objects are. But I agree that an attitude of agnosticism is not easy to most people, and they must know for certain one way or the other. If there is no explanation the only thing to do is to make one up, or dismiss the whole subject as nonsensical.

The sexual theories of Reich naturally raise a lot of heat, and by interesting himself in the "saucers" he has laid himself open to attack by people who really do not care a hang for the "saucers", but are interested in debunking his theories about sex and the orgone.

man so forcibly is the way psychological theories tend to become "closed systems". And how their supporters hate each other! Helen Walker Puner, at the end of her biography of Freud ("Freud. His Life and His Mind"), after attacking various heresies from the point of view of the Freudian Church, writes of Reich, and of his book "The Function of the Orgasm", "The thesis of the book is that all physical, mental and social ailments, from ulcers to Fascism, stem from 'orgiastic impotence':" She then continues in a sarcastic vein for several paragraphs, presumably unaware of the fact that she has written "orgiastic" for "orgastic", not once, but several times. This (assuming that it was not a piece of deliberate dishonesty) is the most beautiful example of a "Freudian error" that I have ever seen in print, and should be included in a new edition of "The Psychopathology of Everyday Life".

The world is not man's enemy. But there are in it elements that are inimical to him. These he tries to eliminate, quite rightly. But his main enemies are unnatural social institutions. Man can achieve happiness with or without technical inventions. He can be happy in a cave, or in a house, provided that it is not a jerry-built structure, a product of the unnatural social institution of capitalism. But he cannot achieve happiness for long in a society based on authoritarianism. His enemy is not principally the environment, though genuine improvements to this are good, but the social institutions that he has himself created.

My feelings about space-travel are that if it is carried on with a spirit of breezy optimism, with an attempt to build spaceships bigger and bigger, to fly faster and faster, it will be nothing but a series of crashes and disasters. The victims will be martyrs to the cause of

The domestication of the horse, creating as it did tough nomadic hordes on the frontiers of civilisation, was one of the factors contributing to the spread of the practice of war. The domestication of cattle seems to have had something to do with the decline in the status of women in early societies. In the sexual sphere the attempt to conquer natural impulses continues to our own day, and is the cause of concentration camps and horror comics alike.

FLYING SAUCERS

WAS pleased to read the comments of S.F. on Wilhelm Reich, and the "flying saucer" question. Whether Reich is right or not, it seems to me that there must be something behind all this talk of interplanetary visitors, though it may not be what the enthusiastic believers in "saucers" think it is.

If the whole thing is a myth, the myth, the question of how the myth came into being at all is of importance, and it will not be answered by sneers,

THE CLOSED SYSTEM

IN "Science Notes-5" Bios describes Catholicism, Freudianism, Marxism, and Reichianism as "closed systems". "A closed system . . . is a universal method of thought which claims to explain all phenomena under the sun, and to have a cure for all that ails man."

One of the things that strikes the lay-

Indeed the various psychological schools seem to have little use for each other. Dr. Lindner also takes a pot shot or two at Reich, as well as at other psychologists, in "Prescription for Rebellion". Reich, on the other hand, seems to have little use for anyone but Reich. No one likes the orthodox Freudians. Dianeticians consider themselves quite apart from anyone else, which sentiment is heartily reciprocated I suspect. Adlerians are, all would agree (except Adlerians), completely superficial; while Jung is a cloudy mystic, and Jungians take your horoscope before analysing you. In the midst of all this backbiting and

society.

Isn't it time that this fanaticism was dropped? The various kinds of anarchists work together. Most of them are neurotic. On the other hand, most of these psychologists have been analysed. I am puzzled. Perhaps someone can en-A.W.U. lighten me.

MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LONDON ANARCHIST GROUP LECTURE-DISCUSSIONS Every Sunday at 7.30 at THE MALATESTA CLUB 155 High Holborn, W.C.1. (Nearly opposite Holborn Town Hall)

MAR. 6-Tony Weaver on MATERNAL CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

MAR. 13-H. McLaughlin on WILL MACHINES RULE THE WORLD?

MAR. 20-Bob Green (Subject to be announced).

BABY SNATCHERS THE

▲ Mrs. M'Geehan of Belfast was sentenced on January 19th to two years' imprisoment for child stealing. There is something tragic about the story told in court-the story of a lonely woman with "a background of insecurity and instability" who stole children because she could not have her own, "looked after them well" in one case for several years, and inevitably had to lose them again. Can there be any greater entitled to the child.

that this was a matter in which he had no jurisdiction. He advised her to take legal advice or to consult an advice counsel in Belfast.

Mr. W. W. B. Topping, Q.C., Crown counsel, said he imagined that the welfare authorities would not release the child without an order either from the Court or from the civil authorities. He thought that it would probably require a habeas corpus application to determine who was

	DON'T MISS THIS	1	foster-mother being deprived of her babies?	you, but there it is." We need make no further comment.	INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS Every Thursday at 8.15.
	During the current month only (and for readers outside E	urope	And yet, where a woman is desperate enough (and irresponsible and stupid	D.R.	OPEN AIR MEETINGS Weather Permitting
	until the end of April) we are offering a number of our book pamphlets at greatly reduced prices, most of them under cost	s and	enough) to acquire babies by theft, there		HYDE PARK
	Readers wishing to avail themselves of this offer should		must be such a tragedy somewhere. As the Judge put it, "Any agony that you		Sundays at 3.30 p.m.
	their orders and cash direct to FREEDOM PRESS or, if they can	n call,	suffer in connection with the children	POODLE PARTY	NEW LONDON
	they will find the books on display at the FREEDOM BOOKS	HOP.	being taken away from you must have been far worse for the parents of these	EVEN the anarchists have some quaint	N.W. LONDON HAMPSTEAD
	Here is an opportunity for those readers who have not been	their	children."	hobbies, but we can never hope to emulate the expensive tastes of our	at 27 Christchurch Hill,
	to afford some of the more expensive books to add them to bookshelves at a very low cost, and for new readers to build	up a	So for Mrs. M'Geehan the story ends tragically; she is deprived of 'her'	superior ruling class. An example of	Hampstead, N.W.3.
	library of sociological works of great interest.	1	children, and also sent to prison for	the sort of behaviour to which we don't aspire was given in a Sunday paper	Discussions Meetings Mondays at 8 p.m.
		1.1	two years and reviled by the gutter press. But we can rejoice with the real	recently:	Correspondence to: Alan M. Bain, 8 Riffel Road,
	Author Title Pub. Price Offe	red at	mothers, for whom the story ends hap-	Thirty poodles, wearing rhinestone- studded collars and their best jackets,	Cricklewood, N.W.2.
	Voline 1917-The Russian Revolution Betrayed cloth 12/6 7/6	(*)	pily with their children's return. Or does it?	will attend a 21st birthday party in	invite line to kee line is and
	Gutkind, E. A. The Expanding Environment		The following nauseating addendum to the trial is quoted from the Manchester	Chelsea to-day. Milk will be served from a champagne	GLASGOW
		(90c.)	Guardian 20/1/55:	magnum. There will be games and	INDOORS at 200 Buchanan Street
	Richards, V. Lessons of the Spanish Revolution		"After M'Geehan had been sentenced, Mrs. Julia Brown, of Blackditch Road,	competitions for the best-dressed and most beautiful.	Every Friday at 7 p.m.
		(70c.)	Dublin, asked the Judge if her daughter,	All this is in honour of Maximilian	A service and the service of the
		(60c.)	Elizabeth, who is in a welfare home in Belfast, could be returned to her.	Tarrywood Silver Sprig-emperor, minia- ture silver-grey poodle pet of society	
		(80c.)	Mr. Justice Curran said he regretted	girl Cynthia Springman, of Chelsea. It	The Malatesta Club
	Berneri, M. L. Neither East Nor West cloth 10/6 5/-			is he who is 21 (reckoned by dog-years —seven years to one "human" year. In	155 HIGH HOLBORN,
		(20c.)	DEBATE	fact, he is three).	LONDON, W.C.1.
	Journey Through Utopia cloth 16/- 10/-		'THAT ALL GOVERNMENT IS	"He has just been two hours at the beauty parlour, and is absolutely flat	YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES
		(20c.) (5c.)	USELESS, DANGEROUS, AND	out," said Miss Springman-pictured	Dancing Every Saturday from 9 p.n (Guest charge, 6d.)
		(2c.)	OUGHT TO BE ABOLISHED' at the	with Max at her home yesterday. "It is going to be absolute chaos," she	*
	Gibson, T. Youth for Freedom 2/- 9d.	(15c.)	White Lion Hotel, Streatham,	said. "We shall have ten 12fthigh	LONDON ANARCHIST GROUP
	Sansom, P. Syndicalism—the Workers Next Step	(10.)	London, S.W.,	lamp-posts covered in silver paper but I do hope they won't be needed."	Informal Discussions Every Thursda at 8.15 p.m.
		(10c.)	Wednesday, March 9 at 7.45 p.m.	The birthday cake is to be in pale-blue	Lecture-Discussions Every Sunday
	Philosophy of Anarchism boards 2/6 1/6	(25c.) (30c.)	Proposer: Philip Sansom	icing with red candles. What will it be made of? "Just sponge	at 7.45 p.m. (See Announcements Column)
		(10c.)	Opposer: A. Marks (Ex-Borough Councillor)	and chocolate and bits and pieces in-	ALL WELCOME
	Hewetson, J. Ill-Health, Poverty & the State		Organised by the Streatham Debating	side." said Miss Springman. There will be a little something before	The second se
L		(20c.)	Society. All visitors welcome, and may speak	the cake. Each poodle will have a bowl	and the suit second property and the
		(10c.)	from the floor.	of food "laced with garlic, game, chick- en, rabbit, olives, which they adore, and	FREEDOM
		(\$2.80)		salami, and some Gruyere cheese, which is their pet sort of cheese."	The Anarchist Week
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