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# Freedom

THE ANARCHIST WEEKLY

"Good men refuse to govern . . . I think that if ever there should exist a state exclusively composed of good men they would seek as much not to govern as there are some now anxious to govern."  
—PLATO (The Republic).

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Threepence

## Take a Step Towards the Free Society

# Vote with your Feet!

A GENERAL election means that people are asked to choose who shall rule them, and on May 26th millions of people in this country will flock to the polling booths to signify their approval of one set of politicians or another, thus indicating lack of faith in themselves to run their own lives.

Many voters will be unconvinced and not quite clear about the policies of the party they vote for; many will do so out of habit as much as conviction, and the fact that the policies of the two major parties—Labour and Conservative—are so similar will have little effect on the solid supporters of either.

There will be others who will not cast their votes either way, but only because of their indifference towards Government and their apparent disinterest on the effect it has on their lives. But all will be agreed that "someone has to run the country, and tell us what to do."

To persuade people that Governments do none of the necessary and useful work in society but exploit the skill and the lives of the people under their domination, is the most difficult task of the anarchist propagandist. And yet the evidence against Government, every Government, is bloody and obvious.

### In the Interests of Rulers

Its main concern is in manipulating affairs of State in the interest of the ruling group who control the economic life of the country. Its prime function in "peace" is to extract as much as it dare from the people it rules. In war, Government demands that those who happen to live in its territory will defend the State against the "encroachments" of another State. When the peoples of the various National States have slaughtered each other at the behest of their Governments and these rivalling Governments then come to

### PROMISES

We shall work to raise living standards and to guide Colonial peoples along the road to self-government within the framework of the Commonwealth and Empire.

—From the Tory Manifesto.

### —AND REALITY

"On no account can we relax in Malaya—it is our biggest dollar earner."  
—Sir Anthony Eden, 12 May, 1955.

### WE'D BE HAPPY TO OBLIGE

Mr. R. A. Butler, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said at Ridgewell, Essex: "The only thing I have not been able to do is reduce the price of beer, and that I would like to do before I die, because I would like to think it would be on my tombstone."

### LOOK OUT!

"One great threat to our national prosperity is the unofficial strike," said Mr. Harold Watkinson, Ministry of Labour Parliamentary Secretary, last night.

"The T.U.C. is as worried as we are." The Conservatives, if elected, would take counsel on the problem with the T.U.C. and the National Joint Advisory Council," he said.

—News Chronicle, 13/5/55.

terms, the confused citizens discover that after all the enemy was not so bad and it is now the ally that becomes the object of hate.

To be governed, in the words of Proudhon, is to be conscripted, drilled, fleeced, exploited, monopolized, extorted from, exhausted, hoaxed and robbed; then, upon the slightest resistance, at the first word of complaint, to be repressed, fined, vilified, annoyed, hunted down, pulled about, beaten, disarmed, bound, imprisoned, shot, judged, condemned, banished, sacrificed, sold, betrayed and, to crown all, ridiculed, derided, outraged, dishonoured.

The anarchist answer to the demands of Government and to the crimes it will perpetuate when the occasion demands is to withdraw support by refusing to vote them into power. This may not affect the results of the election next week, but, as we wrote at the time of the 1951 General Election:—

What we shall have done is to affirm that as individuals we consider ourselves fit persons to dispose of our lives as we think best . . . and at the same time to assert our ability to live our lives to the full without infringing on the rights of all others to do likewise. This may sound academic to the "lesser-evil" advocates; yet, in fact, on their own admission, because the problems of the world to-day are beyond our control, we are simply the unwilling victims who have no say, whoever gets their vote. Politics is a racket and politicians are rogues. How can this vicious circle of the "lesser-evil" be broken, if not by the growth of a resistance movement to the whole concept of Government—"democratic" or otherwise?

### Refuse to Vote!

By refusing to vote the anarchists are declaring their resistance to the whole principle of the Government of man by man, which they submit is responsible for the irresponsibility of, and apathy among, the peoples of the world to-day in face of the mass slaughter in progress and the threats of further destruction on an unparalleled scale.

When the Russian soldiers of 1917 were no longer interested in dying for the Czar they did not wait for constitutional methods to vote them out of the army; they left in their thousands. In the words of Lenin "they voted with their feet", this way indicating their contempt for an institution that offered them nothing but blood and tears.

To turn our backs on Government is to render it impotent, and to vote with our feet is the first step towards a free society.

ARE YOU HELPING TO  
FIND NEW READERS  
FOR  
FREEDOM?



"MUTTON WILL BE PLENTIFUL" - Ministry of Food.

## ANARCHIST ALTERNATIVES

The Observer of May 8 printed an Election Guide comparing the Manifestos of the Conservative and Labour Parties under the headings below. The similarities were striking, except on the one issue of public ownership, where 'free competitive enterprise' and nationalisation represent the parties' two forms of mastery over the workers.

FREEDOM has taken the headings from the Observer and offers below an Anarchist comment on each.

### DISARMAMENT & DEFENCE

Disarmament cannot be expected to be permanent, even if achieved temporarily, while the world is divided by nation-States. All States depend upon their monopoly of the means of coercion to maintain their power over their people, and their position with regard to other States.

A World Government would simply concentrate all means of violence under its own monopoly and would be no more liberal towards the ordinary people of the world than national States are to their subjects to-day. While governments remain, armed forces will remain. Disarmament is possible only when the power structures of the world have been abolished. When a world commonwealth of peoples has done away with all forms of coercion over them, 'Defence' will have no meaning and armaments no place.

### FOUR-POWER TALKS AND GERMANY

Talks 'at the summit', treaties, pacts, agreements between States have never yet prevented war, nor done anything to remove the causes of war, which are rooted in capitalist and governmental society. The League of Nations failed, as the United Nations has failed, to preserve peace. Agitation for high-level talks only serves to deprive the peoples themselves of a sense of responsibility for their world. In 1942 Winston Churchill promised to prevent German re-armament for 50 years. By 1950 he was supporting Clement Attlee's schemes

for re-arming Germany within a Western Alliance. The German people do not want re-armament, but they are not consulted. British capitalism, however, has economic reasons for desiring German re-armament. If the German people are sacrificed in another war, the responsibility will lie with the British Government as much as anyone else and with those people who vote for them. Anarchists everywhere offer their friendship to the people of Germany and encourage them in their struggle against the re-emergence of militarism on both sides of the East-West Frontier. For our part, we pledge ourselves to the struggle against British militarism and will not allow ourselves to be used in wars against the peoples of other countries.

### THE FAR EAST

The peoples of Asia should be given every encouragement and help by the peoples of Europe and the West to achieve their emancipation. But while we are divided by submission to rival governments, friendship across the frontiers is thwarted. Anarchists throughout the world pay allegiance to the same concept of international brotherhood and oppose domination by government whichever label it bears. The people of the Far East are being shamelessly used in the Cold War; their social and economic aspirations twisted by nationalism into support for home-grown dictatorships. Formosa should be occupied neither by Chiang Kai-shek and the American Forces, nor by the forces of Mao Tse Tung: the Formosans should be left alone to run their lives in their own way.

### EMPIRE AND COMMONWEALTH

We support the peoples of the Colonial countries in their desire to be free from Imperialism. We urge them to organise themselves, not to put 'their own people' in political power, but to destroy the apparatus of power altogether and to come into direct control of the means of life themselves. Anarchists in Britain see their part of the anti-imperialist struggle as the undermining of the British people's support for imperialist adventures. We denounce British domination of other peoples and the barbarism resulting from it. The achievement of an Anarchist society in Britain would automatically mean the end of the British Empire and complete independence for those made subject peoples by the same government that dominates us.

We do not consider the people of colonial countries as unable to govern themselves any more than the British. People everywhere should be free to live their lives as they see fit, whatever their standard of technical development.

### UNDER-DEVELOPED AREAS

Wherever people live restricted lives through lack of resources for betterment they should be helped if they so wish and on their own terms. Industrial countries obviously have much to offer them in terms of technical knowledge and equipment, but under-developed areas also have much to give in return by virtue of their untapped natural resources. There must be no forcible, one-sided development through capitalisation for the purpose of making profit. Development of natural resources and utilisation of labour power is the business of the people themselves and should be carried out by them, for the benefit of all, with assistance and advice freely given if asked for.

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