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THE ANARCHIST WEEKLY

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Threepence

THE ISSUES BEHIND

THE ROLLS ROYCE STRIKE

THE strike at the Rolls Royce factory at Blantyre near Glasgow, is now entering its sixth week in a situation of deadlock. The workers are demanding the dismissal of Joe McLernon, a polisher and the management are refusing to do this. The strike is now official and so strike pay is being paid out, making it possible for the men to hang on for a long, long time.

The Press has, naturally, on the whole condemned the strikers because they are holding up production with no greater grievance than that McLernon 'worked too hard'.

Which is, of course, only half the story, which goes back to its origins several months. We hear a lot about the restrictive practices of trade unionists, but when the 'normal' workings of the market demands a restriction of output (in its most sensational form, the decision to restrict wheat acreage in America next year), it is regarded as a natural phenomenon about which nothing can be done.

And within the workings of the market economy, very little can be done to affect the ebb and flow of work according to supply and demand. This is what makes us so suspicious of capitalist 'prosperity', and it is the workers' experience of the transitory nature of the well-being they occasionally enjoy (much, it seems, to the annoyance of the middle-class), that leads them to protect themselves by 'restrictive' practices.

Sharing the Work

One such practice which workers operate among themselves cannot be legitimately described as restrictive, however. This is one of sharing the available work so that a measure of equality is achieved, and instead of quick workers making big money and the slower workers getting less than they need, instead of the workers scrambling to get the work and dividing themselves by competition, they stick together and see that fair shares are had by all.

For some months before the strike there had been less work than usual in the Blantyre factory, and the polishers there, according to William Wilson, secretary of the strike committee, unanimously came to an agreement to share the diminished work equally among themselves. Mr. Wilson says that such agreements are a practice in the industry. "It is true," says a leaflet of

EVEN THE SOUTH POLE IS "STRATEGIC"

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 24. Rear-Admiral Richard Byrd said today that the new bases being established in the Antarctic by a United States Naval expedition, could have a high strategic value to the United States. Admiral Byrd, who is on his way to join the expedition in New Zealand, said: "If the Panama Canal should be destroyed in a war, ships on the way to the Pacific would have to go by way of the tip of South America. The edge of the Antarctic is only 300 miles away. We would have to control that area for the passage around Cape Horn."

The bases which the Navy is setting up would probably represent the beginning of a permanent establishment where up to five hundred people would be stationed, he said. The Antarctic could also serve as a "deep-freeze" for farm surpluses, to be stored there until required by the world in lean years.

—Reuter and British United Press.

the strikers. "no agreement exists between unions and employers, only the rule of common decency between workmates." But according to Mr. Wilson, Mr. McLernon was a party to it. In July he was called before the district committee of his union—the General Iron Fitters—for breaking this agreement by "hogging" the available work and, again according to Mr. Wilson, he agreed that he had had a fair hearing and promised not to do it again.

The strikers say that he broke his promise and that as a result he was earning £4 and £5 a week more than his workmates. So on October 25, his union's shop steward asked for his card, thereby expelling him from the union.

Honouring Agreements

The management have of course indignantly claimed that the strikers are breaking agreements entered into by their unions—and that since the unions are now recognising the strike as official they are breaking their own agreements.

Against this, however, the unions would maintain that the issue, officially, is one of 100 per cent. trade unionism in the Rolls Royce factories, which has been established there for a number of years. When McLernon was expelled from the union, the firm became the employers of non-union labour and this, the strikers claim, is the issue behind their action.

This is undoubtedly rather a tricky piece of manoeuvring, but in fact there is little else the men could have done to give their action an official backing. Since no agreement existed between management and men on the sharing out of the work, but only between the men themselves, they could not make the

breaking of it an issue between themselves and the management.

The management have an argument on this issue, for it has produced figures that show that other men were earning as much as McLernon; moreover it is pointed out that he was not working with the other polishers but with the fitters in the fitting shop, polishing connecting rods. He was thus not

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ABORTION LEGALISED IN RUSSIA

IT is difficult to understand the real motives behind Russia's decision to legalise abortion once more. It is some twenty years since Stalin made abortion a crime in Russia as much for the women being operated on as for the abortionists. Since the end of the war special measures were introduced by the State to encourage motherhood in an attempt to make good the losses sustained during the war as well as to bring about a rise in the birth-rate. This appears to have been most successful and even a little embarrassing, according to a *New York Times* report from Moscow, in that now the "population increase is far outstripping the Government's ability to provide more housing, schools and other facilities".

The present edict is the second step taken by the Russian government in the past sixteen months towards easing the official attitude to abortion. In August 1954 a decree was issued abolishing criminal responsibility for women who consented to abortions, and according to one report, "gave women the right to perform abortions on themselves". Now it will be legal to have abortions performed in hospitals and other recognised medical institutions. Operations performed by unqualified persons will still be held to be crimes punishable by up to three years imprisonment.

It is suggested by some observers that

The Middle East the Next Korea?

SEVEN weeks ago we wrote in this column an article under the title, *The Middle East Cauldron*, which was an attempt to analyse some of the factors which seemed at that time to be relevant to possible developments in the Middle East. During the time which has elapsed, the "cauldron" has been bubbling more and more furiously; so much so that it is almost impossible to distinguish any well-defined details of the scene, but only too easy to see the dark outlines of impending chaos.

One might write ten thousand words of factual material in trying to report adequately some of the more important events of the past weeks, and in so doing give a completely distorted picture of

the situation—or at least a one-sided picture which would depend upon where one's sympathy lay. For this is the fate of the majority, who for reasons which no doubt seem perfectly good, support one particular State, or group of States, and are immediately biased as a result, the bias is automatic under these conditions, because the mind of a "loyal subject" is practically incapable of believing that his own particular government can be very far wrong, or that its motives can be anything but correct.

The anarchist therefore starts at a very considerable advantage in trying to assess a given set of political circumstances, for he has as one of his premises, that governments, of necessity have doubtful motives, and that where any State is concerned it will operate a policy calculated to derive benefit for itself, regardless of its supposed ideals or hitherto stated intentions. When a State carries out a policy which appears to be against its own self-interest, then it is fairly certain that it has been forced to do so by pressure from outside, which, if ignored would produce worse results than those produced by the action which is being taken.

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It can reasonably be said that there would be very little international interest taken in the affairs of the Middle East if there were no economic fruits to be picked in that area. That is to say that if all the oilfields were to dry up, then it is highly improbable that the big powers would be bargaining for supporters! Unless there is something of value to defend, and States seldom value people very highly, then it will not be defended. One may assume therefore that the Eastern and Western blocs are defending their economic interests by all available methods.

Unfortunately for the Middle Eastern States they find themselves in the position where they have to take sides in the major international arguments. This not only creates potential trouble for them, in that they may be drawn into a world conflict in which they have little or no interest, but disarranges and disorganises their own little conflicts with nearby States, and their own internal struggles for power and economic strength.

Of course there is the other side of this particular situation, and it is that these same States see the chance of increasing their own military strength by aligning themselves with one of the big powers and receiving aid in terms of armaments, which at a later date they hope will be the means by which they may force economic gains at the expense of another State.

With these propositions in mind it is much easier to observe more or less objectively the alliances and enmities.

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COMMENT

Keeping Tabs on 2 million "Subversives"—and on your business rivals' secrets

The United States is in some respects not as bad as one might imagine, at least if one is to judge by a statement made by the Civil Service Commission to the effect that it maintained a card index file with names of two million persons "allegedly affiliated with some sort of subversive organisation or activity". The file contained information from newspapers, Congressional hearings and other sources. The names included, declared Mr. Philip Young, chairman of the Commission, "might or might not" some day apply for Government jobs.

He added that the commission did not attempt to assess the "reliability of the information or its evaluation." The evaluation, he said, would be up to the head of the agency considering the employment of someone listed.

The list, which he called a "reference file", may be referred to as much as 5,000 times a day in connection with Government security investigations, he testified. Access to the file, he added, is limited to accredited Government security agents.

In addition to this file, Mr. Young declared, the commission also has a "central security index" that lists 5,000,000 Government personnel investigations dating back to 1939.

The files were described by an official as "second only to those of the F.B.I. (Federal Bureau of Investigation) as a storehouse of such information".

Somehow one feels that "subversive" has rather a different meaning for the American Civil Service Commission or the F.B.I. than it has for us!

The seamy-side of America is revealed not at government level, at which level anything and everything can be expected, but in business, the heart and soul of American life. Corruption, tax-dodging on a huge scale, restrictive prac-

tises and the like are commonplace occurrences, soberly reported daily in the columns of the *New York Times* (and perhaps less soberly, or not at all in the equivalent of our gutter press, depending on the particular journal's tie-up with those concerned). But something more unusual, at least for a reader on this side of the ocean, and much more sinister, and 1984ish, was a report of a State hearing into business wire-tapping. Hazel Bishop, Inc. said it believed that its telephones had been tapped for cosmetics business secrets for eighteen months. Another cosmetics manufacturer, Revlon Products Corporation, sponsor of "The \$64,000 Question" on television, testifies it had monitored and even once had tapped telephones—but only those of its employees. This was assertedly to improve "efficiency, courtesy and service."

Raymond Spector, president of an advertising agency and owner of 55 per cent. of Hazel Bishop stock, testified that, last November, the company had run into "strange coincidences" about matters that had been discussed only by telephone. Last February, he said, a newsletter disclosed a loan project that had been aired only on the phone.

Last April 19, Mr. Spector went on, a search was made by Charles V. Gris, a private detective, and by a former telephone company employee, Carl Ruh, himself under indictment for illegal wire-tapping. They told him, Mr. Spector said, that they had found taps on his telephone and on that of Norman Jay, then Hazel Bishop president, plus a microphone picking up talk in his office.

Mr. Spector also testified that Miss Ishmael McCullough, a \$30,000-a-year executive, had told him she had been informed that her private wire had been tapped. "A major stockholder," he con-

tinued, then reported last September that he had received "direct information" that the telephones had been tapped "by a competitor" for eighteen months. Mr. Spector said the case was put to Mr. Hogan's office in October.

These revelations were made at the hearing, which was the first public session of the significantly—and we think, sinisterly—named "Joint Legislative Committee to Study Illegal Interception of Communications".

Who cares, someone reading these lines may ask, if business tycoons do one another in the eye by evesdropping, either by wiretapping or by secret microphones? For some reason or other what goes on at the "higher levels" seems to seep through to all levels. This business wiretapping is pretty clearly a result of the very extensive government wiretapping. And there is no reason to assume that it will not extend its influence into the private lives of individuals. For instance an electronics expert testified at the hearing that he had "warned a married client against entrapment by a certain woman. The client met her in a restaurant and spilled her purse to make sure she had no recorder." Later—the expert said—a rival investigator reported she had a recorder . . . in her brassiere!

In a society based on competition, greed and suspicion, the tape-recorder, the camera no larger than a cigarette lighter, and the ultra sensitive microphone are symbols of modern man's inventiveness as well as the weapons of the slave state, and the potential enjoyment we can derive from them is more than offset by the harmful purposes to which they are put. The electronic age is fast becoming the age of uneasiness, suspicion and distrust. A frightening prospect if we do nothing about it now.

Two Cases of Intolerance

BELZONI (MISSISSIPPI),
NOVEMBER 28.

Mr. Gus Courts, a Negro grocer, and president of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, was in hospital to-day with gunshot wounds which he said had been inflicted on him on Friday because he wanted to vote. He said he was wounded in the stomach and left arm by shot fired from a car through his shop window! Mr. Courts is the second Negro leader to have been attacked in Belzoni. A Negro minister, Mr. G. W. Lee, was killed here on May 7.

—Reuter.

We reported some weeks ago the case of a Catholic church in America which was closed following scenes by the flock which refused to have a negro priest. Last week another case was reported from Erath, Louisiana where the Bishop excommunicated three Roman Catholics for beating a woman teacher who had instructed Negro and white children in the same catechism classroom. [Despite the United States Supreme Court ban on segregation in 1954, all Louisiana public schools segregate the races. Traditionally, Catholic parochial schools also have been segregated. Louisiana Catholic church officials, however, have said they are considering plans to integrate some classrooms in 1956.]

CINEMA

A TRAGIC CLOWN

LA STRADA (The Road). Directed by Federico Fellini. (Curzon Cinema, London).

THE poor queue in the East End to see bad films about the rich, and the rich queue in the West End to see good films about the poor. This was the London cinema scene when, in the post-war years the masterpieces of the Italian "neo-realist" film-makers arrived here.

What, apart from the rather tendentious definitions of neo-realism by Cesare Zavattini, was the common denominator of these films? It is not simply the use of naturalistic backgrounds, and frequently of non-professional players, nor the element of social criticism and social satire, nor even their refusal to compromise with the box-office demand for an "un-true" happy ending.

The neo-realist movement so far as the Italian film industry is concerned has probably passed its peak, but it never produced a more uncompromising story than La Strada, which "The Times" described last week as "realism crowing on a dung-hill".

Gelsomina is pathetically pleased when he takes her into a cafe for a meal, and feels she has won his confidence, but he goes off with a prostitute and she sits

on the kerb all night waiting for him until someone tells her that his motor-tricycle is on a piece of waste land down the road. She hurries down and picks flowers, and plants some tomato seeds until he has slept off his drunken stupor. They perform at a country wedding feast, and while the cook is getting out some old clothes for Zampano, the children take her to an idiot boy to see if her act will make him laugh.

She wanders down the road, half hoping he will follow her. She runs after a three-man band into a town where a great procession in honour of the Immaculate Conception is followed by a fiesta in which she is fascinated by the tightrope walker (Richard Basehart). She gets drunk and is picked up at midnight by the impassive Zampano with his tri-car.

"I'm no use to anyone," she sobs to Il Matto, "What is the point of my living?" "What," he asks, "will Zampano do when he comes out, and finds you gone? He wouldn't keep you unless you were of some use.

Now my home seems to be with you. Everyone belongs to somebody."

They put up one night in the barn of a convent, and Gelsomina proudly plays Il Matto's tune of the trumpet to the nuns while Zampano chops their wood. That night, still searching for a sign of affection from him she asks, "Why do you keep me?" "I have to have someone to help in my act," he says sleepily.

AS soon as your series of articles by C.W. on Anarchism, Zionism and the Kibbutz appeared I was tempted to write to you, as an insider, so to speak, having access to both the world of anarchism and the world of the Israel collective settlements—the Kibbutzim.

I should perhaps start with a little personal background. I grew up in the comparatively secluded world of Midwestern Canada, in the city of Winnipeg, which for all its isolation had been the seat of the famous 1919 General Strike, which was aimed among other things at securing the recognition of "Red Russia" and the stoppage of arms and men to aid the Whites.

Coupled with this was a community of Jews, driven by persecution from East

Il Matto, and in another fight Zampano kills him. Gelsomina stands by horrified, and all she does in the next few days is to whimper, "Il Matto is hurt."

Years later he is doing his act among some fairground buskers at the seaside when he hears a girl singing Il Matto's tune. He asks her where she learnt it, and she tells him of the strange woman who used to wander round playing the trumpet and never speaking until she died.

This is the gloomy tale that Giulietta

Masina lifts into significance with her exquisite comic miming. Gelsomina is not a halfwit, but an innocent, desperately searching for affection and for some response to her desire to please, for recognition as a person. Her gestures are so transparent and illuminative that you can see her mind working. Her pleasure as she puts her ear to a telegraph pole to hear the wires sing, her aplomb as she sits down to her meal in the cafe, her pride in displaying their mobile home to the nuns, her wonder as Il Matto reveals to her that everything has a purpose—as though the whole world of conceptual thought were suddenly opened to her, her confidential and searching grimaces to the idiot child, as though she is letting him into a secret that will put everything right; these are among the moments in the film which are not easily forgotten.

CONTROVERSY

The Kibbutz, Israel & Politics

and Central Europe, who brought with them to the new world the richness of their cultural life; the Yiddish Kihilla of Winnipeg creating almost spontaneously its community choirs, theatrical groups, schools and of course the numerous trends of radical and revolutionary thought.

In this milieu I and my generation grew up, went to a parochial school (half-day Yiddish, half-day English), read the newspapers of the various parties and were stimulated to think and delve deeply into the problems of the day. The second World War added fuel to the fire and the plight of our brethren in the Warsaw Ghetto touched each one of our lives very personally.

lectual life of the movement to appeal to me. Indeed a new world began to open up before me. I read Hegel, Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, etc., to acquaint myself with the development of ideas, to understand the forces at work in the world shaping man's destiny, and I came to believe in the possibility of creating a life based on my ideals as an example for the whole world to follow.

Also in this period came my first contact with anarchism, from a shaliach (youth leader emissary) from Montreal who subscribed to Resistance. His description of the anarchists was, "I can't really agree with them—but I love them". Although officially Hashomer Hatzair is a Marxist Leninist movement as well as a Zionist Cholutic (pioneering) movement, its disagreement with the Soviet Union over the Jewish question has led to several 'deviations' (e.g. leanings towards Trotsky during the Moscow trials, etc.), and so no streams of thought were foreign to us.

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To tell you all about the Kibbutz would require more instalments than C.W. himself used to develop his topic, so instead I will content myself with commenting on some of the inanities of "Blackbeard" who is a clear case of Jewish self-hatred if ever there was one, and on some of the questions which C.W.'s reply to him raises.

The Kibbutz movement was painstakingly built by the emigration before World War II of young idealistic Jews who gave up promising careers to ensure the ability of Israel to absorb the flotsam and jetsam of Adolf Hitler's rapacity. Israel took in after 1948 every Jew who hadn't a home or a penny in his name, and if these same refugees brought their ghetto mentalities with them to Israel and swamped the pioneering elements by sheer weight of numbers, can the pot call the kettle black? The fact that from these human wrecks, enough have been rehabilitated to create a network of

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Anarchist Notebook

The University Libertarian

In spite of the many casualties among the international libertarian Press (and we have just learned with regret that our American contemporary Resistance will probably this month publish its last issue), anarchists are not deterred by these apparent "signs of the times", and quite rightly! As one journal disappears another springs up to take its place.

We feel sure that the University Libertarian will be successful. It contains interesting material (by contributors familiar to FREEDOM readers: Tony Gibson, Herbert Read, Colin Ward and Geoffrey Ostergaard as well as by less familiar names). It is printed, and the layout is attractive, and what is particularly important the editor strikes one as having clearly in his mind the public he is seeking to reach and how to approach it.

or direct from the publisher and editor: V. Mayes, 13, Bannerman Avenue, Prestwich, Manchester.

Whilst on the subject of anarchist activity in the Universities, mention should be made of a publication issued in Montevideo (Uruguay), by a group of young anarchist students, with the title Construir, two issues of which have so far appeared. Construir is a 64-page duplicated magazine, and an example of what can be done with a duplicating machine.

EXHIBITIONS

PORTUGUESE & FRENCH ART

MY first impression of the Portuguese Art Exhibition at the Royal Academy was one of gloom, and this unfortunate impression persists. With the possible exception of Gallery I which does contain some very interesting works—the exhibition is predominately a record of religious obsession, with the more fearful aspects of superstitious ignorance very much in evidence.

by Bonnard, Picasso, Matisse, Gris, Pissarro, Sisley and many others. The Van Gogh is unusually lovely—quiet and calm and glowing with colour of a quality that all the best Van Goghs have.

There is to-day a tendency on the part of some critics to pretend to see in Van Gogh's work clear signs of his approaching insanity. One critic has already stated with regard to this particular work that it has—"a profoundly disturbing quality"—and after dating it as having been painted between two breakdowns which occurred within a few weeks of each other in 1889, goes on to state, "that the gloves are too full of the hands that have left them, the cypress leaves already quiver in the wind that is soon to turn into flames".

The process by which great art comes into being is, I believe, similar to the creative impulse of the poets. Van Gogh's paintings are, to me, and always have been, clear unequivocal statements, very often possessing an exhilarating abundance of inspirational joy so closely akin to that of poetry, that one feels that a similar creative process must be at work.

AS a corrective I went to the Marlborough Gallery, 19 Old Bond Street, where there is a good show of nineteenth and twentieth century French painting. The catalogue costs 5s.—so enquire for the loan copy! Here there are twenty-five or so painters, each with one, two or more works, nearly all of them good and some very fine indeed. One such—a Modigliani nude, and another, a beautiful Van Gogh still life of a wicker basket with oranges and lemons, a pair of gloves and a cypress branch; these, together with a pastel drawing of a young woman reading by Puvis de Chavannes, and a still life of a glass and a cup by Fantin La Tour are among the best things in a very interesting exhibition, which includes good examples

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MONEY

FOR once in the year we trust we shall be forgiven for abandoning the burning topics of the day, or for resisting the temptation of sticking out our necks for execution by the watchdogs of nineteenth century anarchist orthodoxy . . . and descending instead to a discussion of such mundane matters as money. Not the money system, which is far from being a simple matter deserving discussion in these columns but once a year, but the relation of money to the continued publication of FREEDOM! Week by week one small part of our financial difficulties has been told in "Progress of a Deficit" (the most regular and consistent feature of our paper), and this year, unlike last year, the deficit has never been converted into a surplus. With only three more issues to the end of the year we need £170 if we are not to start 1956 with a financial hangover from 1955 to add to the debts we have accumulated in past years and which we are paying-off as and when we can.

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WE are rather proud of the fact that we manage to publish a weekly journal, as well as books and pamphlets, run an office and a bookshop on what a nameless contemporary in this country (like ourselves in the wilderness), pays in salaries alone to its editorial and administrative staff. But there is a limit to what you can do on a shoestring. We are not unlike the man with the donkey who each day gave him a little less to eat; and when he was congratulating himself on the fact that he had reached the point where he had stopped feeding him altogether, the donkey dropped dead. Each year we are carrying over a few more debts, and being born optimists we think something will happen, some ship will come home, which will allow us to make a fresh start. And in the meantime we take on new commitments in publishing—Freedom Press publications list of nearly fifty titles, is proof of this. But these ventures are financed with our time and our optimism . . . and your support both as readers of this journal and of our publications as well as contributors to the Fund which aims at balancing the losses incurred in the publication of FREEDOM.

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The *Progress of a Deficit Fund* is not a Begging Bowl à la *Horizon*, meant to supplement the modest fees paid to contributors for their work. No-one is paid on FREEDOM. The appeal for funds is to cover the losses incurred on the printing of the paper. Either our readers must find us 1500 more readers or we are obliged to appeal to those interested in the continuation of our work for £800 (\$2,300) a year to cover our printing deficit. We would prefer the 1500 new readers but until they are forthcoming we rely on money contributions to carry on.

We think we have given proof of our good faith and willingness to keep the paper alive: in October we printed the 500th issue of FREEDOM. With the goodwill and enthusiasm of our readers, and the collaboration of those who have, who do, and who should, contribute to the columns of FREEDOM, there is every reason why we should look forward with confidence to the next five hundred issues!

WHEN several years ago a survey was taken of the attitudes of American scientists towards the mass of security regulations which were being imposed upon them it was found that even among those directly concerned with production relevant to war economy about half were opposed to such precautions, on the grounds that they interfered with the traditional idea that scientific knowledge should be shared. This was at a time when the anti-communist drive was at its peak, and opinion among Americans in general was far more reactionary. This idea, that knowledge which may have potentialities for the increase of human happiness should not be kept private is one which everyone with libertarian ideas will approve of, and is in marked contrast to prevailing ideas of private property in material possessions. The mistrust of secrecy among scientists, together with a vague feeling of internationalism, has its roots in the nature of scientific thought.

Although scientific thought is as old as the human race itself, it is only within the last century or two that it has come to occupy such a prominent position, not just in the minds of a small circle of learned men, but in the minds of everyone. When this process began, the scientific world was thrust into sharp conflict with the existing religious system. The immediate examples which spring to mind are Darwinian theory of evolution and scientific estimates of the age of the earth, but behind them lay the all-important differences in approach. While religion asserted that natural occurrences were in the control of a supreme being, who dealt with them more or less as he chose, the assumptions on which scientists worked were that happenings in nature were in accordance with a few general laws, which could be discovered and comprehended by men. The truth of the latter idea seems now so obvious that even sections of the church have modified their doctrines to fit in with it, but at that time it was quite revolutionary.

Now the power of the church has declined in many parts of the world, and where it still flourishes it is as a weapon of political fascism, but the state itself is taking over many of its former attributes, and in several places is carrying

on the conflict with science. However, the situation has changed greatly in the course of the last century. Nowadays everyday life, both on the individual and on the collective level, is permeated by the use of scientific discoveries to such an extent that a government which tries to prevent or disturb the functioning of scientific research often finds itself in dire trouble. The Nazis found this when after having eliminated their opponents from the scientific world and imposed their irrational theories on it, the chaos in German science grew so great that under the stress of war some of the expelled scientists had to be forcibly replaced in their old jobs. In recent years the rise and decay of the Lysenko theory in the Soviet Union has provided an example of the way in which a theory satisfactory to a particular ideology had to be dropped on the grounds that it simply didn't work.

It is because science deals with facts, and their rational relationships with each other, and leaves a minimum of room for subjective interpretation, that the effects of authoritarian repression, and the benefits of mutuality and sharing are very obvious. This should be welcomed by libertarians, as giving an illustration in miniature of the truth of their opinions that with regard to society in general, the imposition of authority disturbs its natural functioning in a detrimental way, rather than increasing its efficiency. At the same time the close integration of science with society provides a brake to limit the extent to which a government can restrict freedom without jeopardising its own safety.

It Was About Time

One of the most humiliating punishments imposed by the British in India were the whipping orders (now introduced in Cyprus by General Harding to deal with rebellious schoolboys). Though it is eight years since the British withdrew from India, it was only last week that the Indian Lower House of Parliament passed a bill abolishing punishment by whipping. The bill has already been passed by the Upper House and now goes to the President for formal assent.

The Kibbutz, Israel & Politics Continued from p. 2

250 odd kibbutzim with a membership (adult) of nearly 80,000 is no mean task. In biting the hand that feeds by slandering all that is finest in his own country, Blackbeard reveals the sickness of his own mind. There are no 1½ million Israelis "hankering to get exit visas". Despite economic hardship 30,000 new emigrants come to Israel every year. That the Jews of the Americas should tax themselves to help absorb this tremendous influx of destitute people is no crime; their help is given voluntarily and willingly. Israel's economic plan is for economic independence by 1960. Of course the tremendous sums needed for defence against 40,000,000 half-starved Arabs, incited by their feudal masters to plunder and pillage as a distraction from corruption and exploitation at home, are a terrible drain on the constructive development projects. If there were peace in the Middle East Israel could be self-supporting to-day.

I do not say that Israel is Utopia, or that bureaucracy is non-existent, or that there are not chauvinistic elements among the Jews, but above all, one must distinguish the wood from the trees; see how Israel has solved (for those who live there) the Jewish Problem, how of late the Kibbutz is still prospering, and indeed experiencing a renaissance, in the efforts to create bonds of friendship between Jews and Arabs in Israel, as a bridge to those progressive elements in the Arab countries who can and must overthrow their reactionary feudal régimes.

Blackbeard, instead of residing in the

PROGRESS OF A DEFICIT! WEEK 47

Deficit on Freedom £720
Contributions received £624
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*denotes regular contributors.

SCIENCE AND SECRECY

widespread as possible, and secondly, the libertarian implications of science should be made clear.

The specific discoveries of science are to a large degree devoted to uses which are against the interests of the majority of people, such as preparation for nuclear warfare, and the elimination of this can only come about as a result of a radical change in the structure of society as a whole. The part which can be played directly by an individual scientist in the process is minute, but the development of science can be influenced to a large extent by public feeling.

In order that this may take place in a beneficial way there are two necessary requirements. Firstly a knowledge of what scientists are doing should be as

Seventy years ago, rational materialists as well as Marxists thought that because of its concern with facts and rationality, the development and diffusion of scientific knowledge would inevitably lead to the downfall of capitalism and the triumph of the workers' revolution. Their optimism has been proved misplaced, in view of the obstacles which the various governmental systems have been able to raise to impede and prevent science from playing such a rôle. The clearing away of these obstacles represents an avenue of approach to a freer society which deserves the fullest exploration. P.H.

The Church in Industrial Disputes

THE fact that the Catholic organisation of trade unionists in this country does not approximate the influence wielded by Catholic Unions on the Continent must be a source of regret to Church leaders. The need therefore, for pulpit guidance becomes, in the view of the hierarchy, doubly important. So that Catholic religious teaching is only one aspect of influence and propaganda, which ranges from birth-control to strike action.

The recent strike of 7,500 Rolls-Royce workers in Scotland (discussed elsewhere in this issue), has stimulated the Catholic Church into verbal action which may have considerable influence on the strike and serve to divide the men. This is obviously what the Church intends. In spite of public knowledge that both Communist and Catholic are represented in the leadership and among the strikers the Church is deliberately attempting to smear the strike as wholly Communist inspired, in the hope no doubt that Catholics will withdraw their support. The fear that working class interests will take permanent precedence over allegiance to the Church is one which is constantly facing the leaders of the Church. It faced them in France when many of the *Worker Priests* found themselves drifting from the precincts of the Church, when contact with the realities of everyday life made them question the teachings of the Church.

There is no doubt that the present Rolls-Royce strike has them worried. In a pastoral letter read at all Church services in the diocese of Glasgow the first frontal attack on Communist influence on the strike was made:—

"There are in our midst certain people who make it their profession and business to promote class war and to stir up strikes in factories, regardless of the inevitable misery they cause in ever widening circles. We do not hesitate to name these people. They are the Communist Party . . . This Godless and immoral organisation . . . who under the pretence

of seeking your welfare . . . are working relentlessly for your ruin."

It has been pointed out by *The Times* correspondent that Roman Catholic intervention may have a profound effect on developments in the dispute. In the West of Scotland where

"the clash of religious ideology is keen, and where Roman Catholicism stands to Protestantism in a rough ratio of one to three, much confusion may now result in the strikers' ranks."

The observations made by the Church about the Communist Party are, in our view, probably correct. We all know the political considerations that influence Party members when industrial disputes arise. But the tactics adopted by the Roman Catholic Church wholly concerned in maintaining its power and privilege, are often indistinguishable from the Communist Party.

No industrial dispute is ever entirely free from sectarian influence, which very often causes workers to fail in the achievement of their limited ends. The workers themselves have a tendency to be finally influenced by an emotional appeal from their political party or religious group to the detriment of the industrial struggle. Both the Catholic Church and the Communist Party are struggling for the minds of men and if they can reach them through a feigned interest in their day to day problems their influence will be that much greater. Both these organisations have supported and opposed strikes in the interests of expediency, but the trouble with most workers is that their memories are too short and their patience over long.

FREEDOM needs more readers and more funds URGENTLY!

A HISTORICAL PROCESS?

A CAREFUL study of one's school-room history books must inevitably lead to the conclusion that "history was made" by remarkably few people. A few important kings and princes, a duke here and there, several prime ministers and of course a queen every now and then. Needless to say there was hardly any history made by other nations than England—this much is obvious from the books.

It may seem extraordinary to the uninitiated that so many other people were doing so little towards history-making, and were content to sit on the sidelines observing the monarchs and premiers. On occasion of course, some of them were dragged into the process of what is loosely called evolution, usually with the direst consequences to themselves—and afterwards their relatives and friends would retire hastily to the seclusion of their particular sideline.

In the light of these facts, and particularly since the commencement of the "era of psychology", (the ego and all that), one might have supposed that the fairly large majority of the population (i.e. those who are not included amongst the princes and dukes), would have caught on to the fact that they were not getting the best out of themselves and nothing out of the others.

At this point however, one must in all fairness put the other point of view, though it is hard to do so, for it is almost like telling everyone that they have been

swindled—which is always unpopular. But happily there are extenuating circumstances.

The point may well be this: the history books have not really been written correctly—they are biased in favour of the star performers who apparently made all the decisions and overcame all the troubles. In actual fact the wars have always been fought by representatives of the majority, and the industrial revolutions have been "worked-at" by the industrious many, and the earth has been cultivated by millions of people, and houses have been built by hundreds and thousands of other people, and . . . so on. *And that's the horrible truth.*

Every now and again one has ventured to suggest to the uninitiated that they should consider at least a small part of this "historical theory", but for some reason they listen but do not want to hear. Often they agree that there is some sort of a fraud afoot, but take the view that they would rather be swindled than lose their television sets. Some of them want to be dukes and princesses, so they hardly listen at all. A very intelligent professor once told us it was all an historical process over which nobody had any control, but that it was leading to an inevitable conclusion. Possibly he was referring to the hydrogen bomb or marxism or something.

Surely it must all be too ridiculous to last for ever.

H.F.W.

Kibbutz Gal-on, Chof Assalon, Israel. 22/11/55. DAVID COHEN.

