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Freedom

THE ANARCHIST WEEKLY

"All government is founded in opinion. One part indeed of a community or empire may be held in subjection by force, but this cannot be the personal force of their despots; it must be the force of another part of the community, who are of opinion that it is their interest to support his authority. Destroy this opinion and the fabric which is built upon it falls to the ground. It follows therefore that all men are essentially independent."
 —WILLIAM GODWIN

Nazis and Socialists Unite in Germany

THE NAZIS AGAIN

IT is indicative of the interests of the British Press that the results of the recent elections in the German Land Parliament for North Rhine—Westphalia should be treated by their correspondents purely for its effect on the stability of Dr. Adenauer's government and hence Germany's foreign relations.

It does not seem to have occurred to them that the German people are likely to be affected—and affected adversely—by the re-emergence in office of politicians with Nazi records. For the spokesmen of the British Press, the German people (and for that matter the British people also) do not merit consideration when the more important matters of foreign policy are at stake.

What has happened in North Rhine—Westphalia is that a united front of the Social Democratic and Free Democratic Parties has defeated the Land Government of the Christian Democratic Union, Dr. Adenauer's Party. This will deprive Chancellor Adenauer of his two-thirds majority in the Federal Upper House of Parliament in Bonn and can seriously upset his policies of alliance with the West and of re-armament within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

We do not weep over this. The politicians of the West have foisted re-armament on West Germany entirely for their own ends and against the will of the majority of the people. Germans have had their fill of militarism and war, and the majority are quite happy to remain a de-militarised nation—even faced with the embryonic army of East Germany and behind that the might of the Russian divisions.

The German people know perfectly well that in the event of a major war their country will be another Korea—plus atom bombs. They would prefer to stay out of that if possible.

But the men who have ousted the Christian Democrats in Dusseldorf and threatened their power in Bonn are not anti-militarists. Their opposition to Adenauer's pro-Western policy has nothing to do with principled opposition to preparations for atomic war. These men are politicians and they are out to implement policies which they think will serve (a) their own interests and (b) the

interests of the German State with which they identify themselves.

In the first place the name 'Free Democrat' is a complete misnomer. The FDP certainly started off as a liberal party, but it has been gradually infiltrated by right-wing elements over the last three or four years until in North Rhine—Westphalia they dominate the party.

Once upon a time one would have been surprised that Socialists would make an alliance with such an organisation. But it is a sign of the times that to-day one barely lifts an eyebrow at the spectacle of Socialists uniting with ex-Nazis. After all they have a temporary common interest. Presumably each party thinks itself smart enough to be the first to stab the other in the back when their interests diverge.

Their common interest at the moment lies in their opposition to Adenauer and their desire for a reunified Germany. Only when that happens can ambitious politicians come into their own as leaders of the sovereign German nation-state. Only then can Germany become again a power in its own right, playing off East against West for its own advantage.

The West will look with dismay upon moves towards unification.

The present situation suits the Western powers very well, in spite of the uncertainty and misery it can cause millions of Germans. The Russians favour unification because they would rather deal with a Germany prised away from the West—and when it comes to the point we shall see the Kremlin quite prepared to abandon East Germany (for Gottwald's government would not stand a chance in a free election) for the opportunity to make closer ties with the whole—economically and militarily.

To that end, however much the Communists here may scream about the Nazi re-emergence, we may be sure that their leaders in the Kremlin look with approval upon the results of last week's election results. And after all, they set the fashion for socialist-Nazi friendship.

For all political groupings, power is the prize and people are only a means to that end. But the Germans have had some salutary lessons this century. It is time they drew a few conclusions and recognised that those who play the political game are not to be trusted. Since the up-and-coming politicians of North Rhine—Westphalia have the ugly records that they have, such warnings should be superfluous.

FOR THE RECORD

THESE are the young and ambitious politicians who are now tasting influence in the Land Government of North Rhine—Westphalia, with their records, according to a *Manchester Guardian* correspondent, (21/2/56):

1. Herr Willi Weyer. He is aged 39, and was a member of the Hitler Youth and of the Nazi party. He will be given a Cabinet post in the new Government.

2. Herr Wolfgang Döring. He is aged 37 and was a member of the Hitler Youth. For the past five years he has been secretary-general of the F.D.P. in Düsseldorf and has been mainly responsible for the careful "purging" of all genuine liberals in the party administration.

3. Herr Walter Scheel, aged 36, was a member of the Hitler Youth and the Nazi party. Like Herr Weyer and Herr Döring he has recently been to both the United States and Britain, and has been angered by the failure of people there to

realise that the F.D.P. had its own "mission" which was distinct from the policies of Dr. Adenauer's C.D.U. party.

4. Herr Hermann Kohlhase. He is aged 49 and was a member of the Nazi party. He was also a senior party intelligence officer and served in the notorious Reichssicherheitsdienst (state security service). He is local chairman of the F.D.P.

5. Herr Siegfried Zogelmann. He is aged 42 and edits the F.D.P. and strongly Nationalist weekly, the *Deutsche Zukunft*. He was a "district leader" in the Hitler Youth and served the Nazi party as departmental head in the so-called "Protectorate" of Bohemia-Moravia where some of the worst war crimes were committed.

6. Herr Hans Lange, aged 41, was a member of the Nazi party and a leading functionary in the Hitler Youth. He is chairman of the Youth organisation, the "Jungdemokraten" of the F.D.P.

Behind these young men stands a group of older men who have equally sinister records. It is thought that they are in contact with Dr. Walter Naumann, who was arrested by the British for plotting against the Federal Democratic State. It was Naumann who instigated the infiltration of the F.D.P. by the neo-Nazis.

The four leading 'elder statesmen' are:

1. Dr. Ernst Achenbach: He defended Werner Naumann when the latter was tried by a British Control Commission Court in Bielefeld. A keen and apparently unrepentant supporter of nazism, Dr. Achenbach served under Herr Abetz during the German war-time occupation of France. Herr Abetz was sentenced to imprisonment as a war criminal.

2. Herr Rudolf Rahn. He was formerly Ambassador to Rome and is today a member of the Free Democratic Executive in North Rhine Westphalia. He has organised useful social connections for the Right wingers of the F.D.P. in this Land.

3. Dr. Lothar Steuer. He is at present vice-president of the Düsseldorf Parliament and was formerly secretary to Herr Hugenberg, the Nationalist "newspaper king" who helped Hitler into power.

4. Dr. Werner Best. He is a close friend of Dr. Achenbach and was formerly Nazi Reichs commissioner in occupied Denmark.

CONFLICT BETWEEN JUSTICE AND INJUSTICE

FOR nearly three months now a boycott of public transport by the Negro population of Montgomery, Alabama has been striking at the city coffers in a most effective way (see FREEDOM 7/1/56). The boycott was formerly organised as a protest against the arrest of a Negro woman who had refused to give up her seat to a white passenger.

Frustrated in their attempts to intimidate the determined coloured population, the authorities have now arrested more than a hundred leaders on the indictment that to organise a mass boycott amounts to conspiracy. Under the 1921 Alabama law it is a 'misdemeanour for two or more persons to prevent others from carrying on their business'. Those accused will find it difficult in the courts to prove that the boycott was originally spontaneous and later organised and carried out in a most determined way. But it will be difficult to arrest all those taking part in the boycott. The arrests have brought forth a new passive resistance campaign which is expressed in the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King, a coloured minister addressing over two thousand Negroes after the arrests:—

"This is not a war between the white and the Negro but a conflict between justice and injustice. We are seeking to improve not the Negro of Montgomery but the whole of Montgomery... If we are arrested every day, if we are exploited every day, if we are trampled over every day, don't let anyone pull you so low as to hate them. We must use the weapon of love."

"...not a single race-loving Negro to-morrow will turn the key in his ignition or ride a taxi-cab, and we know that nobody will ride the buses."

The chief lawyer for the Negro leaders has been indicted by a grand jury for 'unlawful practice' of the law. It is reported that he is only twenty-five and due for drafting, and therefore, his case will probably not come up before the courts. This is one effective way of getting rid of opposition, by drafting into military service, and if this should fail we have seen that where the white man is supreme in the Southern States the law can be manipulated in his favour.

But no law is powerful enough to suppress an organised determined people. Ironically, in this issue it is

the local laws which act against the Negro and the higher courts which are in their favour. The Whites in Alabama who feel the economic squeeze of this boycott are going to have a tough time choosing between their prejudices and economic interests.

THE BLACK HOLE OF KOSTI

AFTER any tragedy caused through negligence of those in authority which is followed by a public outcry, someone is invariably arrested as if to prove that justice is being done.

A case in point is the death of 194 Sudanese farm workers who were suffocated in an army barracks cell in the town of Kosti last week, where 334 of them were packed into a space of 65 feet by 20 feet. It must be a great consolation to the men's families to learn that several police officers and men have been arrested following the tragedy.

The arrest of the farm workers followed a clash with the police a week ago after workers had refused to deliver the season's cotton crop to the company employing them. The issue which led up to this has been obscured by the subsequent deaths, but it appears that the farmers were demanding a bigger share of the profits from their cotton. According to a report 638 workers were detained following the clash with the police in which two policemen, a village guard and 20 workers were killed. Knowing the revengeful nature of police generally after incidents involving the death of policemen, it can be put down as one of the reasons why the cries of the suffocating prisoners were ignored. According to a survivor from the prison cell there were only two small windows near the ceiling, and—

"The doors were covered with wooden shutters. We could not sit down. After two hours the heat seemed to make it impossible to breathe."

"We shouted and cried: 'Water, water!' and knocked on the doors. We begged to the policemen outside to bring us the water. We were suffocating. But the police ignored us."

Dr. Amin el Sayed, the Sudanese Minister for Health has stated that the cell where the men were detained had sixteen windows, but the farmers were too primitive to open them!

Thousands of students demonstrating in the streets of Khartoum have been joined by railway workers now out on strike as a protest. The police are now afraid to interfere with demonstrators in Kosti and Khartoum who are ignoring a Government ban on processions.

DEATH PENALTY

To be Debated in Canada and New Zealand

THE House of Commons vote to abolish hanging for murder has had repercussions in Canada and New Zealand.

In Canada the Minister of Justice has declared that the Government would announce in due course whether it would suspend all hangings in Canada until a Parliamentary Committee studying capital punishment made its report.

The Committee has gathered evidence at public hearings during the last two sessions.

It will now prepare a report on capital and corporal punishment.

In New Zealand, where the re-introduction of hanging was one of the planks on which the National Party was returned to power in 1950 (following its abolition by the Labour Party in 1941 and its unofficial suspension during the previous six years), it is reported by the *Observer's* Wellington correspondent that the Commons vote will prompt a debate on the death penalty there.

"A strong demand for this is being made by the abolitionists, whose numbers appear to have increased since the death penalty was restored by the present National Party administration in

November, 1950, shortly after it came to power. If the Labour Party raises the issue again, it is probable that the Prime Minister, Mr. S. G. Holland, will allow a free vote, as he did in 1950.

On that occasion there were two divisions. The first produced a vote of 38 to 31 in favour of restoration, the second a majority of 37 to 28. One member of the present Cabinet, Mr. J. R. Hanan, now Minister of Health but then a back-bencher, crossed the floor to vote against the Bill with the Opposition.

The Prime Minister, who strongly supported the Bill, said that another Government member, Mr. E. P. Alderman, who was absent from the House, would have voted against the Bill had he been present."

Resigning before he is Sacked?

The *Sunday Times* reported last week that:

"Albert Pierrepont, Britain's chief executioner, has resigned his office. Mr. Pierrepont, who has been the public hangman for 25 years—an office held by his father and uncle before him—said last night that his decision had nothing to do with the present discussions about capital punishment."

RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS WEEK COMES UNSTUCK

AMIDST the lunacy rampant in the Southern States of America, a handful of people last week took a stand against discrimination.

The Rev. Alvin Kershaw, of Oxford, Ohio, was among the guest speakers billed to speak at the University of Mississippi during *Religious Emphasis Week* (!). A few months ago he won 32,000 dollars in TV's *The 64,000 Dollar Question* programme, part of which, it was disclosed, he intended handing over to the *National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People*.

On hearing this, the Chancellor of the University cancelled the Rev. Kershaw's visit. A few days later all five out-of-state professors decided not to speak at the university. Then, Professor Morton B. King, chairman of the university's sociology department, resigned from the faculty. The university administration, he said, is no longer able to "defend the freedom of thought, inquiry and speech which are essential

for higher education to flourish". At Mississippi State College, another Professor followed his example.

The state house of representatives denounced the two men as misguided reformers and urged the heads of all state-supported colleges to "use every effort to prevent subversive influences from infiltrating into our institutions".

Since all the five speakers billed refused to turn up, the organising committee decided to replace them with five local clergymen, and the Editor, Jack Sullen of the *Jackson Daily News* wrote that "we may feel reasonably sure that local clergymen will not be spewing poison into the minds of our young people". The five local clergymen however, declined to perform and *Time* reports that:

"At week's end the committee on Emphasis Week into three days of meditation and prayer—without any clergymen around who might have dangerous ideas."

