

# Freedom

THE ANARCHIST WEEKLY

"Politics is such a torment that I would advise every one I love not to mix with it."  
—THOMAS JEFFERSON.

## A MILLION CHILDREN NOT MURDERED TODAY

THE Wolfenden Report has appeared at a time when a series of child murders has aroused public indignation.

When we criticise the sensationalism of the Press we in no way wish to minimise the tragedy of these murders, which appear to most people to be more horrific because of their sexual nature. But in the emotional upsurge which follows—particularly after an arrest has been made—there is such an obvious desire for revenge and a less obvious vicarious pleasure derived rather than a wish to understand or prevent such assaults, that serious consideration ought to be given to the part which the Press plays in stimulating the deranged mind to dwell upon the sexual details of the offence. It is not, in our view, mere coincidence that several murders of a similar nature have followed one another. It might be argued that desire is already there, but the role of the sensational press as a factor contributing to these murders should not be underestimated.

It is not, however, only the man who is an obvious mental case who is stimulated but the characters of both sexes who shout their obscenities and would oppose any kind of sexual reform which could lead to a saner attitude to sex generally and might help to alleviate the misery of many sexually maladjusted people.

The first thought which finds vocal expression by people who for various reasons refuse to examine the causes of 'sexual crimes'—and the majority of people regrettably fall into this category—is that the man must be found and punished. The repressive nature of the moral codes in our society considered as a cause of murder, rape, war or any anti-social act is rarely given serious thought.

The attack on the recommendations of the Wolfenden Report on

consenting adult homosexuals gives some indication of the irrational approach to sexual behaviour which does not fall into the recognised 'normal' pattern. No logical argument can be put forward which could prove that two consenting males making love in the privacy of a room is going to affect the morals of little Jim and Mary who live down the street and who are probably in any case investigating each other's sex unknown to Mother. Therefore, the arguments against even the reformation of the law, let alone allowing responsible people the freedom of whatever sexual patterns they adopt, must of necessity be irrational

### Fear Engendered

Of course children must be protected. But one shudders at the fear and suspicion which is being engendered in children by most parents at the present time. "Don't speak to bad men because they might harm you," is the stock warning. But when the child asks why, a cloud of mystery and evasion shrouds the reply.

The whole problem of repression and standardised sexual codes cannot be dealt with overnight—or in a court of law—but public attitudes might be affected by a serious approach on the part of newspapers

seriously interested in "public morality". Why do newspaper editors not headline the fact that millions of children and adults walk about freely every day unmolested? If they did their sales might drop, but so might the numbers of violent crimes.

### What are the Causes?

Yet although there has been a small series of child killings it has certainly not reached panic proportions except in the headlines, where hour by hour accounts of man-hunts have played upon the fears of nervous mothers, made worse by the leader-writers who have thundered about 'a reign of terror'.

Perhaps the public's fears have been added to by the apparent ineptitude of the police. In the two most sensational man-hunts they failed to lay hands on the persons they were seeking without direct assistance from them. One person now on remand for the murder of a small boy drew attention to himself by attempting suicide and leaving a note beside the gas-stove. (A note which betrayed mental abnormalities, in our opinion). In the second case, a person for whom the whole of the London police were looking, and whose photographs

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## Losing Friends and not Influencing People

THE United States is a country where the science of "making friends and influencing people" is of vital importance for success in every sphere. But although the technique has been developed to a greater extent in that country than anywhere else, it would appear that it only applies (in its present form) when used by Americans—to Americans.

Since the end of the war the United States has given away and lent more money and goods than all other countries put together; she has taken great pains to produce elaborate displays of friendship and goodwill, and spent many dollars on propaganda and publicity designed to create a good impression of America, her way of life and ideals, and her great love of peace.

It has proved a signal failure, the United States remaining thoroughly disliked throughout the world. The dollar stands for American imperialism and a desire to dominate, American arms stand for aggression and a further desire to dominate. Her gifts and "generous terms" are regarded with suspicion and distrust, and sometimes as nothing short of bribery.

### In Reverse

The latest American efforts in the Middle East have proved no exception in a dismal record of the dreary last decade. Within 24 hours of a much publicized campaign to persuade Arab countries of the dangers

existing in the present Syrian situation, all U.S. allies in the Arab world had vigorously voiced their support of Syria. The American method had consisted of an agonised speech from President Eisenhower stating the case for U.S. "anxiety", followed by a steaming of the U.S. Fleet through the Eastern Mediterranean, whilst the U.S. Air Force displayed itself in strength over Amman simultaneously with a presentation of large numbers of 106 mm. anti-tank guns to Jordan.

On September 19th, Foreign Secretary Dulles was speaking of the danger of direct aggression which was being caused by nations accepting Soviet arms (as distinct from American arms), and delivering a pious lecture upon, "Those who feel an abnormal sense of power as a result of the recent putting into their hands of large amounts of Soviet bloc arms . . . being incited by violent propaganda." He continued on a particularly heart-rending note to talk of the possibilities to "tranquillise the scene", and for the United Nations to exert its influence.

"May we," said Dulles, "at least do that, and thereby once again serve the cause of peace, hope and happiness."

### Action & Re-action

After this spectacularly transparent (and unsuccessful) display had produced the undesired results, failed to make any friends or influence anyone in the correct direction, Dulles beat a hasty, and somewhat lame retreat into the realms of make-believe. Things "probably will work out" said he, "That is partly a belief based on faith."

As if to fulfil some law of physics, every failure of American diplomacy creating a temporary international vacuum; instantaneously becomes filled by the ever-opportunistic, highly efficient Soviet diplomatic-gift-machine. Every action has its reaction, and Russian popularity and prestige in the Middle East rises on the tidal wave of America's dastardly deeds. Since America regards those who are not for her as against her, and Communists in the bargain, it is small wonder that her motives for castigating what she considers recalcitrant Arab states, are looked on as moves to put one Arab against another. Soviet diplomacy on the other hand, sometimes succeeds in giving the impression of the U.S.S.R. as big, friendly brother, anxious to help without thought of the reward.

We would suggest that when it comes to motives there's nothing to choose, but unfortunately the Arab nationalist does not see it quite this way.

## Reflections on Decency

IN their Report, the Wolfenden Committee continually stressed the distinction which has to be made between public and private behaviour. In their opinion the Law has no right of entry to the bedrooms of England, but what is done in the streets, the public lavatories and public houses of the land is a matter of public importance. "Decency" is a public susceptibility not a private one; "indecent" can only be committed in public (though it is the grounds for obtaining a divorce—and in the process is transformed by the Press into a subject of considerable "public interest"!).

Now, without sharing the exaggerated enthusiasm of those who view the Committee's approach as revolutionary, we would have no quarrel with this distinction between the kinds of things that can be done in private and which offend when done in public, if we were sure that what is to-day called "public decency" was in fact a sensibility based on real values, aesthetic and ethical, and not simply artificial or irrational prejudices or interference by influential minorities of anti-sex busy bodies!

★  
ONE needs to possess the mentality of the legislator to be able even to set out to define what is "public" and what is "indecent".

According to the Law the exhibitionist who compulsively displays himself in a crowded highway, and the "indecent" book on the bookseller's or library's shelves are both offenders against public decency though in the case of the former the public has no warning of the "outrage" about to be perpetrated on its feelings whereas in the case of the book it is no more than paper and printer's ink without the collaboration of the reader.

"Indecency" it would seem is synonymous with "Sex". Where the street-walker offends "public decency" lies neither in the fact that she is a woman or that she is walking in the street or even talking to a man. It is the assumption that she is talking to a man on the subject of going to bed with him. And even though the public does not hear the conversation or witness anything more than perhaps seeing the man following the woman to her flat, we are asked to believe that "public

decency" has been outraged. Why then is it not equally outraged by the sight of a family group out for a Sunday walk? After all, apart from the newly discovered possibilities of virgin births, it is obvious to everybody in sight that young Tommy would not be there but for "Sex"!

Again "indecent" is a matter of geographical location and time. And within that geographical location there are other determinant factors,  
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## ADENAUER OR SIN!

THE strong anti-war sentiments which in the recent past have been expressed by sections of the German people, did not prevent the re-election of Adenauer's Christian Democrats last week.

It is not that Adenauer openly pursues an aggressive policy, but his "strong Germany" principle which necessitates re-armament and a German army at the ready is obviously more acceptable to nationalist feelings than the Socialist slogans (however insincere), opposing militarisation and the general move towards war preparations.

Adenauer's election campaign identified the Socialists with Moscow. This is bound to have some effect on a fear-ridden people with a "foreign" army practically sitting on their doorstep.

Mass Neurosis  
If the theory of mass neurosis has any validity it must apply to the German people. Acute guilt over their passivity which allowed Hitler to build his concentration camps and murder millions of people; the sense of defeat made more acute by occupying armies; fear of the Soviet

Union which showed at the time of the East German uprising its military strength; the appeal of the fatherly Adenauer (protected by God). A sense of guilt takes many forms, and passive acquiescence in past brutalities, need not, as has often been demonstrated, led to a rejection of violence.

### 'Mortal Sin'

Adenauer's success at the elections was to some extent due to the vigorous support of the Vatican. A papal message was read in Catholic Churches in Germany urging all to vote on pain of committing mortal sin. Catholics versed in their earthly duties did not have to be told who then to vote for since they know that Adenauer is a devout Catholic. Father Heinrich Lemmen, however, was not taking any risks. To the Pope's message he added: "When one recalls that two-fifths of the present Bundestag do not believe in God, one can only say 'God Save Us'."

Good Catholics know to be saved one has to be obedient and that by voting for Adenauer they would be carrying out the wishes of the Pope.

## EARTHA & LOUIS DON'T LIKE IKE

Miss Eartha Kitt, the singer, to-day attacked President Eisenhower and the Governor of Arkansas when she supported Mr. Louis Armstrong, the jazz trumpeter, in refusing to tour the Soviet Union as an official American "ambassador of goodwill." Earlier this week Mr. Armstrong also criticised Mr. Eisenhower and Mr. Faubus in disclosing that he had dropped plans for his Russian tour. He said: "The way they are treating my people in the South, the Government can go to hell."

Miss Kitt, who is here for a singing engagement, said in an interview with the Canadian press.

"I'm not in complete agreement with the way in which Mr. Armstrong made the statement, but I support what he said. All in all, he's right to some extent in saying he will refuse to go to Russia if he is going as an example of liberty and equality in this country . . ."

"What does Eisenhower do? Smiles and goes out to play golf. He has the same face he had the day they put him on his chair—the same whimsical grin on his face. There doesn't seem to be any intellectual curiosity as to why the people are angry and what could be done about it. He's playing both ends against the middle, and what's he got to win by it? He can't run again for President. You'd think he would come right out for what he knows to be right."

Reuter, from Windsor, (Ont.), 20/9/57.

### Now Ready!

SELECTIONS FROM "FREEDOM"

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OIL AND TROUBLED WATERS

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