







LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

The University Libertarian

DEAR COMRADES,

It is with regret that I have to say that I cannot continue to publish the University Libertarian...

This three-year-old baby (birthday next month) grows slowly and is proving too onerous in time and cash for a single individual...

The chief onus however is in terms of time, and in fact if the U.L. was more of a success—and it has quickened slightly—I should be overwhelmed...

but now I must disengage myself completely, since I can hardly expect to have the joys and kudos of editing...

But I deplore infanticide, and if possible would sooner arrange an adoption. I would like to hand U.L., complete with ownership, control, financial liability...

The group should be in geographical contact with each other, which presumably means London, although I would be well pleased if some non-metropolitan group were strong enough to do it.

American group would be most welcome. I will write off the accumulated deficit, so that you will start from scratch.

A quick response is called for as the January issue should go to the setters about December 1st, if anyone can be found to afford it...

Failing a successful adoption, I must wind up U.L. In which case people who want particular issues in quantity (e.g. contributors), should let me know.

The latter paragraph brings me naturally to a tribute to FREEDOM, which, as my offering this letter to you reaffirms, is the forum of the anarchist movement in Britain...

And as for your readers—is it to be infanticide or adoption? Well-wishers should write to 5 Hitchin Road, Stevenage, Herts, or phone Stevenage 333.

Yours fraternally, VIC MAYES.

What's Happened to Socialist Indignation?

VISITORS to Freedom Bookshop this week might have noticed a fine display on the outside 'racks' of the current issue of FREEDOM with its headline—British Brutality in Cyprus...

The display reminded us of a question posed by R. H. S. Crossman in last week's New Statesman. Writing about Cyprus he asks: "Who apart from Sir Compton MacKenzie can afford to be on the side of the terrorists?"

Mr. Crossman makes one or two pertinent points in the same article on the change in public opinion, and the whole Labour movement, to imperialism. Even up to the Palestinian war there was still "a small but vocal section of public opinion which denounced Ernest Bevin for waging an unjust war against the Jews".

ties to side with subject peoples fighting against us for their freedom. Now the suggestion that National Servicemen may be fighting an unjust war outrages every father and mother in the land. If Mr. Gaitskell and Mr. Bevan had gone even as far as the Manchester Guardian on the Cyprus issue, they would have exposed Labour's flank to the Tories...

It is surprising to read such an honest opinion from a socialist on parliamentary democracy. But even if Bevan and Gaitskell had exposed Labour's flank to the Tories by going as far as the Manchester Guardian how much more respect they would have gained as individuals both in this country and in Cyprus.

What of the changing attitude to imperialism. Is it not also true that in 1900 when, as Mr. Crossman says, the whole Labour movement and a large section of the Liberal Party were anti-imperialist, Britain was such a strong confident imperialist power that attacks in this direction were not taken very seriously...

Politics in Argentina

IT is over three years now since Peron was relieved of his job as the Dictator of Argentina. In that time we have seen few signs which would justify the Western claim that Peron was replaced by more 'liberal' minded men...

The provisional Argentine Government to-day (Oct 14th) threatened death to any supporters of Peron who demonstrated next Monday, the anniversary of the 1945 general strike...

Notwithstanding the accounts of bloody repression at the time the West hastened to favour the new régime with the same opportunistic speed with which they recognised the new Iraq government after its ruthless seizure of power a few months ago.

Recent reports from Argentina give us another glimpse of the real nature of the régime which demonstrated its Peron-like methods in dealing with opposing factions.

The President, Arturo Frondizi, "elected with the help of Peronista votes" recently negotiated millions of pounds worth of development contracts with foreign oil companies, mostly from the United States including Pan American International Company and Union Oil Company.

There was no thought of negotiation in the Government's response which was to declare a 30-day state of seige and a nation-wide arrest of

strike leaders. It is reported that the army promised the President support if he stopped "wooing the Peronistas". The fact that President Frondizi was voted into power with the help of Peronists to carry out their wishes is a democratic right which is ignored by dictators as well as the "democracies" who support them when workers attempt to exercise it in unfavourable conditions.

One U.S. paper states that the Argentine President had lost the "dubious Peronista support" but he had gained the prestige of "demonstrated firmness"—an acceptable description for throwing workers in jail who oppose their government.

With all that U.S. money invested in Argentine, President Frondizi's dictatorial methods will be supported by interested parties inside and outside the country. Since the Argentine government oil monopoly has only enough resources to produce 35% of the country's requirements, although an estimated 2.3 billion bbl. oil reserve lies underground, it may be that development contracts with these oil companies will bring temporary economic benefits to the workers (the Argentine oil workers do not seem to think so!), but at the moment we are primarily interested in the methods used in dealing with opposition which are given wide publicity and condemned when used by countries outside the Western bloc.

It may also be true that strike leaders who are now imprisoned are Peronists, or Communists who would not strike if economic aid was supplied by the Soviet Union or from some other source (any devout Peronist is probably only interested in harrassing the existing government), and who would no doubt support a tyranny under a different name, but "we in the democracies" are supposed to be offering an alternative to dictatorship and suppression, and should be protesting to the Argentine government on its imprisonment of strike leaders.

DEAR COMRADES,

What is the attitude of members of the anarchist movement to activities of protest against tyrannical actions by foreign governments?

It seems to be felt that petitions, letters to M.P.s or ministers are of no avail, but that public meetings and demonstrations are sometimes useful. Practical action, such as boycott of articles of trade, or even of "prestige" cultural or sporting events is obviously more in line with anarchist ideas in general...

This question was raised by the fact that recently the Bulgarian movement in exile asked libertarian groups and individuals throughout the world to protest about the death in mysterious circumstances of a comrade Manol Vassev, in a Communist concentration camp.

We usually make the claim that direct action is far more effective than petitioning and letter-writing, but the end result is quite often that the anarchists, in theoretical purity, do absolutely nothing.

Is there any value whatsoever in approaches to authority? Can we approach authority at the same time as advocating its absolute destruction? If the anarchist movement is not sufficiently strong to bring about effective direct action should we swallow our theories for a bit and at least do our bit in other ways?

Or is there any chance of really trying to put our theories to the test? London, Nov. 19. SYNDICALIST.

Protesting Through Authority

FREEDOM needs many more New Readers

After Quemoy - Berlin

should give up the remnants of the German occupation régime. The Soviet Union for its part, will hand over those functions which it still retains in Berlin to the sovereign German Democratic Republic, and the U.S., French and British can form their own relations with East Germany if they still have questions about Berlin."

But the West does not wish to recognise the East German Government; cannot lose face with Germany by "retreating" from Berlin (on moral grounds of course—cannot leave West Berliners to an East German fate) because Germany is the keystone of Western defence.

"We are most solemnly committed to hold West Berlin—if need be, by military force."

Not all would agree with him, but who dares to say it too loud? There are fractious elements in our midst, but who will break the common front?

Nothing can be said for either Soviet or Western motives. Both are committed, partly by fear of each other, to the retention of Germany as a buffer zone, as a jumping-off place, as a means of ground defence conveniently placed and on the cheap. The Soviet Union uses the East German economy to bolster its own; the West, Britain particularly, would find the West German economy an awkward embarrassment to her own if un-hindered by the costs of re-armament and an army. So it's backs to the wall in defence of free elections, democracy, the rights of man—and, by pure chance—we cannot afford to do anything else, because of N.A.T.O., German economic strength, loss of face, nuclear weapon sites—On with the air-lift!

Once more into the breach, dear friends, once more.

MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LONDON ANARCHIST GROUP

Regular Sunday meetings now held at "Marquis of Granby" Public House, Rathbone Street (near Percy Street and Oxford Street), 7.0 p.m.

NOV. 30.—Rashard Gool on AN EVALUATION OF 'DR. ZHIVAGO' (Pasternak)

Dec. 7.—Donald Room on THE BOMB-THROWER MYTH

DEC. 14.—Max Patrick on AN ANARCHIST ANALYZED.

DEC. 21.—Philip Holgate on EDUCATION AND THE FUTURE

EAST LONDON DEBATING COMPETITION

1st Round at University House, Victoria Park Square, Bethnal Green, E.2. (Bethnal Green, Central Line Underground) at 8 p.m., Friday, November 28. London Anarchist Group will debate the motion that "Government should be abolished".

CROYDON LIBERTARIAN GROUP

For details of meetings and other activities, please write to: S. E. PARKER, 228 HOLMESDALE ROAD, LONDON, S.E.25.

FREEDOM

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