

# Freedom

THE ANARCHIST WEEKLY

"Liberty is not a means to a higher political end. It is itself the highest political end."  
—LORD ACTON.

## REBELLION ON THE TUBE

REBELLION is in the air. The idea that the patient, disciplined travellers on London's Underground could be inspired by the passive resisters at Swaffham is perhaps not as far-fetched as might at first appear. After all the protesters at Swaffham, in between getting rolled in the mud, hauled into court and popped into jail, are themselves patient, disciplined travellers on public transport.

They are ordinary people moved by their feeling over certain circumstances to do extraordinary things, and it should not be thought that there is no sympathy for them among all the millions who don't join them physically. One knows well enough the attitude: 'I don't agree with them, but at least they have the courage of their convictions', expressing grudging admiration for somebody who finds the guts to put up a struggle for what they think is right.

Add to that the outright sympathy of those who are in agreement and we can recognise that the passive resisters at Swaffham have behind them a considerable weight of support. But the fact that this support does not go so far as participation on the site means that there remains a residue of potential rebelliousness, coupled with a slight sense of shame at not actively participating.

If this is so, then any small incident can spark off rebellious acts, and the increasing irritation and frustration which the 'economy' cuts on London Transport engender among its customers provide many suitable opportunities.

### Abominable

Travel by London Transport is never, nowadays, a pleasurable experience. During the rush hours, morning and evenings, conditions are abominable. No self-respecting sardine would tolerate being packed in the way the Underground passengers are. And the amazing part of it is that the victims voluntarily present themselves for the twice-daily massacre. Cattle have to be driven into cattle trucks, but grown-up men and women fight to get into trains in conditions under which it would be illegal to transport cattle.

What can they do, poor suckers? They are convinced that they have to get to work on time and they want to get home to their telly's in the evening. Up on the surface the situation on the buses is just as bad with the added winter discomfort of waiting in queues in rain, snow or bitter wind.

### SOCIALIST-CAPITALISM

Even the Kremlin has found out that you can't get production without incentive.

Senator Hubert Humphrey, Democratic member of the U.S. Senate, got this information from Khrushchev himself during their talk in Moscow recently.

Writing in *Life* magazine, Humphrey says that Khrushchev told him that Communist China's system of communes was not nearly so good as Russia's State farms and collective farms.

"Communes are based on the principle from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs," said Mr. K.

"You know that won't work, because you can't get production without incentive."

Senator Humphrey said that he asked Mr. K. if his statement on incentive was not "rather capitalistic."

Mr. K. replied: "Call it what you will. It works."

B.U.P., January 8th.

In the rush hours the conditions of travel are appalling. In the off-peak times the service is now getting so bad that long, time-wasting waits for both trains and buses become the norm. The alternative of switching to private transport—buying your own car or scooter—is possible for many, and many are turning to it for solution, but in so doing provide another problem: congestion on the roads.

### Insoluble

The London Transport economy cuts coupled with the recent easing of restriction on hire purchase, making it easier to buy cars and scooters, will mean a big increase of vehicles on the roads. This will become most noticeable next Spring, but is already creating traffic problems in London. The Christmas shopping and sight-seeing spree, for example, provided traffic jams such as has never been known before.

The Londoner therefore is faced with an insoluble dilemma: to suffer underground or to suffer above-ground. By and large the quickest way to get about is by bicycle. But in Winter that is not comfortable and in any case does not attract many people.

Next quickest is the Underground—but now the economy cuts are leading to trains being stopped short of their destination and the passengers being ordered to get out and wait for the next one.

This additional irritation is what has sparked off the recent series of 'stay-in strikes' by passengers, who have refused to leave trains which have stopped short. Few things are more irritating than to settle in a train marked for a certain destination and then to be hauled out of it at some intermediate stop.

At Mile End and Mansion House stations last week when this occurred, passengers sat tight and refused to leave. It looked like becoming a regular form of protest, with spokesmen of the transport workers saying they sympathised with the travellers' protests against economy cuts. But London Transport Executive's immediate answer was to wave the big stick—the natural reaction for a monopoly authority—and threatening to shunt stay-in strikers into sidings and leave them there.

### Unreasonable

What the strikes have done, however, is to sting the executive into a belated realisation that passengers resent like hell being shuffled about without explanation. Every reasonable traveller recognises that in case of breakdown or emergency trains may have to be reversed without notice—but economy is not emergency and trains can surely be clearly indicated if they are going to stop short.

First reaction of LTE was to bully the passengers and cajole them with 'the best interests of all passengers' sort of argument. Admission of their shortcomings however is implicit in the decision to instal more loud-speakers at more stations to explain to travellers the reasons for delays and stoppages.

This is a beginning—and would not have been done if it had not been for the stay-in strikers. But it will take much more than that to calm the frustrations of London Transport's customers, who are bewildered by the apparent inability of the biggest city in the world to provide an adequate transport system at an economic figure.

## Some Reflections on the Swaffham Demonstrations

SO far as the popular press is concerned, the release of the imprisoned Swaffham missile base demonstrators is the signal for the curtain of silence to be lowered on the whole affair. Having in the first place been responsible for a demonstration by a hundred people becoming front page headlines throughout the country, Fleet Street also decides when the time has come for the public to forget that it ever occurred. But in the minority press it would seem that discussion has only just started, and while much of it is depressing, one cannot help feeling that the growing scepticism in political parties and leaders and the growing emphasis placed on individual responsibility, brought out in the course of these discussions will find a response in the heads and hearts of at least a few more people. To our minds, the success of the demonstration as propaganda by example—apart from its importance to the demonstrators personally—does not depend on whether it succeeded in stopping work on the missile bases, but on its impact on individual members of the public.

IN a letter to *Peace News*, Bertrand Russell maintains that the demonstration was "abundantly justified" on the grounds that whereas "peaceful and orderly activities by those who hope to prevent nuclear warfare" have been boycotted by the

Press, the North Pickenham demonstration "secure wide publicity". He concludes that:

Those who think such methods undesirable should tackle the Press. Until the Press pursues a wiser policy, it is only by methods such as those used at North Pickenham that public opinion can be made aware of the fact that our population is being led blindfold towards mass extinction.

Bertrand Russell makes an interesting point but he does not in fact tackle the main problem. He complains that "a large conference of eminent men, mostly scientists, was held in Austria in September . . . and drew up a valuable document signed by all but one of the participants at the Congress [yet] hardly any newspaper in this country said one word on the subject". As if the Press was a public service and not the property of wealthy groups who besides making money out of the Press used it to further their political and other interests!

Just as the Press splashed the Swaffham demonstration, so might they have relegated it to a paragraph at the foot of an inside page. By saying as does Bertrand Russell that "Direct Action" is justified on the grounds that it gets the headlines, he not only does not face the deeper implications of direct action but also skates over the real problems of the Press. The answer to Press suppression or censorship is a

Continued on p. 2

## Mikoyan in America Receptions for a Murderer

DID you think that the cold war was being waged because the two power blocs led by the United States and the Soviet Union represented two different ways of human life and conceptions of democracy and freedom? These conceptions are said to be bitterly opposed to each other, and the clash between them leads to a struggle for survival in which collapse will be the result of any let up on either side. Have you read and heard repeatedly that the maintenance of large armies and expensive military preparations were essential (equally to both sides) so as to deter the adversary? However painful it was to the governments to spend money in such a wasteful way, it was necessary for the defence of our cherished freedoms, which have to be saved even if it means the manufacture and testing of nuclear weapons which contaminate the atmosphere; and the occupation of Cyprus and occasional Middle Eastern States against the wills of their inhabitants.

To anyone who thinks along such idealist lines, and there are no doubt many among the English people who, while not being able to reproduce their thoughts, give general assent to such an outline, the scurrying to and from of heads of state must seem a little puzzling. There is so much of this visiting going on at the moment that it is a wonder that some enterprising travel agency has not got things organized: "Seven dictators in 15 days—the cheapest going", or "Conducted mystery tour of Middle Eastern capitals—you never know who you'll meet there."

The most revolting spectacle at the moment is the tour of America being made by Mr. Mikoyan, deputy premier of the Soviet Union. He has been welcomed as befits the relations between the two most powerful states in the world. On stepping off the airplane surrounded by twin lines of policemen, his first engagement was a conversation with Mr. Dulles. At least, the policemen had shown that international co-operation is possible in some fields, such as protecting V.I.P.s. It would have been interesting to hear the reminiscences: "We've been having a bit of trouble here with these pacifist cranks"—"Well, I'll tell you what we did with the left deviationists . . ."

There were however, others waiting to meet Mr. Mikoyan. They were demonstrators who seemed to be immigrants

from East and Central Europe. The placards they bore carried slogans such as "We know your kind Mikoyan", "Your hands are stained with Latvian blood", "You ground down Budapest, is it Chicago's turn next?" Some more perceptive ones, noticing his warm welcome by the super capitalist Cyrus Eaton, said "Go back to Russia, and take Eaton with you."

It is hardly surprising that such sentiments find some expression, in view of the official attitude of American capitalism, and for instance its full page advertisements in the *New York Times* denouncing "Bolshevik barbarism", and the oppression of Communists and near-Communists in the U.S.A. Then up spoke Ike, and asked that the demonstrations should stop, and that the noble guest should be treated to a reception full of American courtesy! Probably Eisenhower and Dulles have great admiration for Mikoyan, since they are all in the same line—government.

Mikoyan has shown himself very adept at this art, being chosen by Stalin in 1926 and having held on to his position through half-a-dozen purges and reversals of policy. He was even clever enough to denounce Stalin a few days before Khrushchev's exposure at the 20th Congress. One commentator put his success down to his innate shrewdness as an Armenian, the nationality which has produced quite a number of Armenian business men. There is however, another current idea of an Armenian as a very poor peasant, particularly subjected to

Continued on p. 4

### We Never Had it So Good

Mr. Ian Macleod, Minister of Labour, said yesterday that he did not know whether the drop in unemployment during December was temporary, due to the Christmas rush. He forecast that the unemployment peak for this year would be reached either this month or next.

Mr. Macleod, who was speaking at Southampton, said that 1959 would see a gradual and steady improvement in Britain's affairs. "I don't expect any dramatic recovery in our production or dramatic drop in the level of unemployment, but the outlook is fairly cheerful," he said.

Manchester Guardian.

## The Integration Issue Will They Get Round It?

WHAT is described as "three separate legal blows" to the South's organised campaign against equal rights for Negroes is reported today from the U.S. But while these orders of the federal district courts may be regarded as a tiny "step forward" it is possible (and likely) that educational authorities in the South will circumvent the laws by their system of grading which covers all eventualities in the case of a Negro student applying for enrolment to a white school.

These we have discussed in previous issues of *FREEDOM*, and have shown that a Negro student can be prevented from enrolling at any school because he does not reach the required educational standards (which in all cases reported have been quite unjust), or because his presence is likely to "cause a disturbance" among the rest of the students. There are many other clauses which have been successfully used to prevent Negro students entering white schools. Thus it seems that the Federal district court order in Georgia which says that Georgia State College must not bar Negro students "solely because of

race" need not necessarily mean that Negro students can successfully apply for enrolment. The same applies to the order made by a federal judge in Little Rock requesting the school board to produce within 30 days "a specific and detailed report" of the steps taken to integrate local schools.

In Georgia, the same court outlawed segregated seating on the bus and tram system of Atlanta, but in response to Negro leaders not to assert their rights, Negroes are reported as having taken seats at the rear of vehicles as usual.

Tactically this may be a wise course for the time being but eventually Negroes are going to choose whichever seats are convenient and it is unlikely that the white segregationists will accept the situation without the usual violent opposition.

Even so, very slowly, the edifice of white superiority is losing a brick or two from its foundations. In desperation the white segregationists will use anything to prevent it crumbling, and it will be in the propping-up period that resistance will be at its ugliest.

# ALL OVER THE SHOP

THIS is the time of year when the editors of FREEDOM look sadly around their rooms at the piles of paper of all sorts that something has got to be done about. Unanswered letters, half-written articles, press cuttings, fascinating but untranslated items from the foreign anarchist press, illegible notes, books which should have been reviewed, newspapers, magazines, pamphlets. The very sight of it all fills us with gloomy reminders of all the things that didn't get done in 1958, the important topics which FREEDOM resolutely, but unintentionally, avoided during the past twelve months, the letters which were not written and the articles which were not solicited.

Painfully the heap is reduced in a mood of self-preservation against the rising sea of paper, some of it thrown away regretfully, some of it put away hopefully. But even then there remains a little pile of items torn out of the newspapers for some reason or other. Here for instance is a snippet from the gossip column of the *Evening Standard* (13/11/58):

"In the Skiffle Cellar, in Greek Street, spasm music, Soho's newest noise, blared through the gloom.

Mr. Russell Quaye, bearded, red-scarfed, sang. And afterwards he said:

'We're anarchists here. Sort of against any Government.'

A dinky girl jerked round the tiny dance floor. She was dressed in a real potato sack. A sweated anarchist lay full-length on a sofa cradling a cup of black coffee.'

★

AND while we're in the world of music, the *Manchester Guardian* 13/11/58 reported that:

The eighteenth-century art of political pamphleteering in verse has been revived by Christopher Logue, who has been hawking copies of a poem about Cyprus, with the help of friends and sympathisers, around Kensington, Chelsea, and the West End. Broadsheets are on sale in a number of bars and coffee-houses, and other copies have been pasted on walls.

His poem—"The Song of the Dead Soldier"—is set to the tune of McCafferty (an Irish ballad) and dedicated to "Major-General Kenneth Darling (C.B.E., D.S.O., Eton, Sandhurst; Recreation, Riding; Clubs, Army and Navy), Commander Security Forces in Cyprus." Some of the stanzas are as follows:

At seventeen the postman brought,  
Into the room—my place of birth—  
Some correspondence from the Crown,  
Demanding that with guns I earn,  
The modern shilling I was worth.

Lucky for me that I could read,  
Lucky for me the captain said,  
You'll see the world for free, my son,  
You're posted to the island, John,  
Where the Queen of Love was born . . .

When morning came our captain bold  
Said the island shaped like an ass's skin  
Must be kept calm, must be patrolled,  
For outposts are the heart and soul  
Of empire, love and lawful rule.

I did not know to serve meant kill,  
And I did not see the captain fall,  
As my life went out through a bullet  
hole,  
Mother, I cried, your womb is done,  
Did they spend your English shilling well?

What gratified us about this item was that months earlier, in FREEDOM for 8/2/58, we had suggested that Christopher Logue's remarkable poem should be turned into a song.

Less relevant, but very interesting, two observations from Mosco Carner's book on Puccini. "Voice," he remarks, "is an extension of sex", and in a phrase full of insight, he declares that "the ground bass of Verdi's operas is a battle cry, of Puccini's it is a mating-call".

★

THEN for some reason (I suppose we meant to send it to Alan Albon) we kept this piquant news item dated 31/10/58:

"Mr. Jack Merricks, the Sussex farmer who is well known for his opposition to state marketing boards, has been elected a member of the Potato Marketing Board. He was one of four candidates for three vacancies as special members for England and Wales.

"Mr. Merricks, of Little Ashes, Icklesham, was nominated by more than eighty potato growers from Yorkshire, Cambridge, Norfolk, Essex, Gloucester, Hertford, Hampshire, Kent and Sussex. When he handed in his nomination papers he said he wanted to reduce the expenses of operating the board, and would refuse any pay for his services. Last year, he said, members' salaries amounted to £25,700.

"He explained his motives in seeking election as: 'I kill my thistles, weed out docks, and spray for potato blight. Wherever I find a pest I fight against it, and that applies to the Potato Marketing Board'."

★

FINALLY, at some time during the year we commented, in one of those inconclusive pieces about education, on the fact that the law in this country does not oblige parents to send their children to school; it imposes on them an obligation to see that their children while within the compulsory age, are receiving "an appropriate education". What in that case are we to make of the case (reported at length in the *Times Educational Supplement* (5/12/58) as follows: "Mrs. J. E. Baker, a mother of seven children, left the magistrates' court at East Dereham, Norfolk, on November

28, after being fined £4 for failing to comply with a school attendance order in respect of her four eldest children, determined to carry on the fight she has waged for three years against the Norfolk educational authorities.

The chairman, Brigadier K. W. Hervey, in announcing the fine, said, "The court warns you most severely that if you persist in your attitude the moment will most assuredly arise when steps may be taken in a juvenile court to remove your children from you." Mrs. Baker replied in a calm voice, "I am prepared to stand up to threats."

"For half an hour Mrs. Baker had argued on oath that she was providing her children with an efficient education at home. She spoke rapidly from a typed "brief" and in the middle of her address announced she would call her eldest son David, aged 13, into the witness box to prove her contention that he was as well educated as any normal schoolboy although he had never been to school in his life.

"David walked briskly into court and read the oath in a firm clear voice without hesitation. Then he faced his mother, who stood at the lawyer's table. She asked him, "What do you want to be?" "A farmer," said David. "What did you do this morning?" asked his mother. "Got up at 7.30 and went to the farm, got the cows in and milked them and took them up the road again," said

David. In answer to more questions from his mother David said he could drive a tractor, plough, disc harrow and work on a combine. Then his mother asked, "Do you find you can get on well with people?" "Yes, most people," said David. David then went on to tell the magistrate how he won a £30 photographic competition for adults with a camera given him as a present.

"The clerk of the court, Mr. Leslie Allwood, then selected an editorial from a magazine and asked David to read the leading article as a test of his reading ability. For four minutes the boy read without hesitation.

"In her address to the bench Mrs. Baker, who had pleaded not guilty, said that school education followed one rigid pattern. No one was allowed to vary it and no progress in it was ever made, whereas she believed in preparing a child for adult life. "The ultimate test of all education," she said, "is the value of the finished article—the young adult at the end of school life. The education authority is doing its best to stop me from producing my ultimate evidence."

"Mrs. Baker was fined £1 in each case in respect of David, aged 13, Robin, 12, Felicity, 10, and Wendy, 9. After she had been found guilty it was stated she had been fined twice before for similar offences. She announced her intention to appeal."

## Amateur Artists

International Amateur Art Exhibition 1959, Heatherley School of Fine Art, 33 Warwick Square, S.W.1, January 5 to 15.

READING some of the painting critics in the elite periodicals, one might suppose that action painting, social realism and neo-cubism are the contemporary British artistic movements, and academic painting strictly for squares and stick-in-the-muds. But the annual exhibition of the Royal Academy still has more works submitted for consideration than any other show, and since 1956 the second largest submission in London has gone to another academic show, the Amateur Art Exhibition sponsored by The Artist Publishing Co. Ltd.

I visited this year's exhibition, I may as well admit, because a relative of mine is one of the exhibitors. I had assumed the International Amateur Art Exhibition to be a mammoth collection of the kind of stuff which is exhibited by local Arts Clubs and Art Circles in Public Libraries and Community Centres, and nothing short of family loyalty would have got me there. But I was delighted to find my assumption was wrong.

Some of the paintings, and I think most of the sculptures, are obviously done by trained artists who owe their amateur status, presumably, to the fact that they have taken jobs as clerks or housewives or milkmen. The others are hard-won successes or gallant failures by genuine, untrained artists, struggling to express what they see with whatever skills

are available to them. The copied photograph, that unseemly product of the timid mind, the most offensive sort of amateur picture, is out. So is the canvas divided into little rectangles, with a nail or a peanut in each one, and the humourless, unbalanced sub-Picasso. The heavy symbolic work, with a broken crucifix, an exploding bomb and three ill-drawn figures after Stanley Spencer or Eric Frazer, is represented by one example only.

Here one may see what beauty may be discovered and created by quite ordinary people, trying to express what they see. Henry Moore has said that what makes a work of art interesting is not its technical competence but its sense of struggle. He would find much to interest him here. A reclining nude seen from the end, for instance, the legs disproportionate and skinny because the artist was finally defeated by perspective, yet fleshy-looking, firmly united with the torso and what a painter friend of mine would call 'leggy', because his heart was in the battle. A woman called Nance Leaver represents sunshine by using a brilliant, purplish palette, and another woman wins a well-deserved prize by piling the colour so that it shines with light. There is a river by night, influenced by Rex Whistler's 'nocturnes' which successfully suggests the reddish purple glow of arc lamps behind distant buildings. . . .

But one could use up an issue or two of FREEDOM enumerating the more exciting pictures. Let me say no more except that it is worth seeing.

D.R.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Comparative Education

*Comparative Education*, by Vernon Mallinson. Heineman, 21s. (Published 1957).

THIS is the best, and most up-to-date of the general introductions to comparative educational studies which are currently available.

The second half of the book presents a fund of detailed information as to the structure of the school and college systems of all the states of Western Europe, and the USA and USSR. This is organised into chapters dealing with the various aspects: Administration, Training of Teachers, Primary, Secondary and Tech-

nical education. The arrangement also makes it possible to skip through the chapters concentrating on one particular country.

Mr. Mallinson writes from a clear understanding of the dynamic states of the educational systems of the various countries, based, with the exception of the USA and USSR, on personal knowledge. Comparisons and contrasts are well brought out and even the intricate structures of, for instance, the French system are made clear by the pleasant style of writing.

It is the first half of the book which invites criticism. In order to make the systems described in the later parts seem real and comprehensible, the author builds up pictures of 'national character', and 'national aspirations' which are not far from being stereotypes. Thereafter, the staunchly independent Belgian, the logical French intellectual, the freedom-loving Dutch, and the home-loving Lutherans of Scandinavia set forth to build their schools. Perhaps there was nothing else to do, since this is a book about education and not about comparative sociology, but it emphasises the need for comparative studies of how and why the differences in the common personalities of people in different European countries arise, and their relation to the educational system. P.H.

## FREEDOM BOOKSHOP

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Bertrand Russell 16/-

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Chester Wilmot 5/-  
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(Abridged) Havelock Ellis 3/6

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#### Periodicals . . .

Le Monde Libertaire, January 3d.

Australian Libertarian  
September 1957 1/-

September 1958 1/6

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## PARANOIA-3

(Continued from previous issue)

### The Function of Creeds

In equating religious and political belief with paranoia it remains to be considered just what function these systems serve in society as it is. The most obvious one is that of canalizing the individual paranoid systems of society's members into general, socially accepted forms, and this has a cohesive influence. Children are given ready-made paranoid systems in the form of religious instruction, belief that their own country is always right, that foreigners are inferior, etc., etc.; their delusions therefore take on forms which are socially acceptable. Again, political creeds serve to unify large sections of the population in their paranoid beliefs.

Some purely personal paranoid beliefs are not considered harmful or socially reprehensible. Romantic love commonly entails a degree of paranoia. When two people fall in love they grossly overvalue each other and misinterpret reality to an absurd degree. Here again great emotional distress is caused if reality breaks through and the paranoid system has to be modified. If the girl is forced to realize that her lover is not the shining hero she imagined him to be, and the boy is forced to realize that she is a quite ordinary girl just like hundreds of others of her age and social background—then both may suffer terribly in this reorganization of their joint paranoid system. Romantic love is of course socially approved because it promotes marriage, and when reality breaks through the two participants are caught in the legal net having sworn life-long fidelity to each other.

### The Dynamics of Paranoia

Related to romantic love is the paranoia of insane jealousy. A single instance of a rather stereotyped problem which often comes before psychiatric clinics will serve to illustrate it. The husband is tormented by ideas of his wife's infidelity. He imagines that while he is out at work his wife indulges in passionate sexual orgies with other men and that her children have all been conceived in such orgies. He admits that he has not a shred of real evidence for such beliefs. The wife is an

ageing, worn little woman, harassed by the problems of caring for a large family; anyone less like the orgiastic harlot of his fantasy one can hardly imagine.

Occasionally this poor man breaks out into violent denunciations at home accusing his wife of gross sexual promiscuity, every word of which is a terrible insult to this moral little woman. This man knows he is a paranoid and is now attending a psychiatric clinic. His case presents a big question—why does anyone develop such paranoid ideas alongside of their ordinary sane method of thinking? The paranoid fantasy seems to be a dramatic mockery of what is in contrast to what we desire reality to be. It is possible that this jealous man may actually desire to have sexual orgies with women himself, a desire which he fears to gratify or even to admit. In his conflict and frustration he may project such orgies on to his wife in fantasy, and then he turns on her in a rage of frustration.

Perhaps it is because we know that we all must die and remain dead for ever, that the religious myth of everlasting life is eagerly embraced, and that the political parties' version of the Big Rock Candy Mountain appeals to those who have little hope in their personal lives. Wilhelm Reich claimed that it was those who were most frustrated socially and sexually in Germany who gave rise to the paranoid movement of Nazism. Reich himself, caught in a blind alley of fruitless pseudo-biological research spent the last decade of his life elaborating paranoid delusions.

The mind of man is the most complex phenomenon on this planet. By rational thinking we have changed much of the race of the earth. Alongside of our rational system of thought we have the paranoid, and no theory of psychology has yet done more than hint at the true nature of the paranoid process. This is unfortunate, for as history has shown, most of the miseries of mankind have been self-inflicted and due to senseless wars, enslavements and other social ills which could have been entirely prevented by the operation of rational thought. Early pioneers like Godwin and the Utilitarians thought that all social ills would be outgrown simply by the

progress of rational thinking. We see that the problem is more complex: it is not just ignorance we are up against, it is the active process of insanity.

Unfortunate too is the fact that by the power of sheer rational thought man has so increased his technical power that paranoid fantasies of mass-destruction can now be gratified to an alarming extent. It is important to realize just what we are up against. We are not confronted with the mistakes of sane men who are doing their human best in guiding our destinies. The powerful men in the world today are the dangerous paranoids who love power for the sake of power. If you look for a reasonable basis of their actions you are wasting your time—it simply isn't there. Destruction is pursued for the sake of destruction and oppression for the sole sake of oppression whatever rationalizations may be given.

All of us have paranoid mechanisms latent within us and the terrible thing is that the mass of ordinary sane men and women can be worked up by the organs of mass propaganda so that fully-fledged paranoid delusions become a commonplace. This is what happens in wartime and times of "national crisis"—any lunatic policy will receive full public assent if put over in the right way, for a "lunatic" is not somebody fundamentally different from a "sane" man—there is a lunatic potential latent in all of us. We blamed the German people for the collective guilt of the murder of millions of helpless Jews; after the war the Allies put up posters in Germany showing pictures of the horrors of the concentration camps with the caption "Whose Guilt?". An atrocity of equal magnitude could be perpetrated by any of the other civilized countries given the right paranoid build-up by its ruling élite. Those Jews were murdered and there was an end to the horror. Britain, Russia, and the U.S.A. are already preparing the means for an even greater atrocity by which unborn generations will be murdered—and with the assent of most ordinary right-thinking people.

We will get nowhere in our thinking unless we are prepared to call a spade a spade, to acknowledge that those in the saddle are dangerous lunatics. Also, the potential lunacy of our fellow men, and ourselves included, is almost unlimited. How shall we save the rational thought process of *Homo Sapiens*?

G.

## Swaffham Demonstrations

Continued from p. 1  
Free Press, and the first step towards the building of a Free Press will be taken when people like Bertrand Russell refuse to write for the gutter Press.

The people will only break the stranglehold of the millionaire press by creating their own organs of information and ideas. Just as we believe that government and centralised authority will be weakened only when we, the people, succeed in creating our own social and economic organisations, and thus remove initiative from the government, so with the Press. Our writers, thinkers, artists, poets and honest journalists on the one hand, and that substantial minority public which is sick and tired of the sensationalist antics of the gutter press on the other, should boycott the gutter press and combine to produce and support a new, a free, Press which extends the freedom of expression to its contributors and takes for granted the intelligence of its readers! It can be done if enough of us want it and are also prepared to do something to achieve it.

The *Socialist Leader* in a recent editorial refuses to be enthusiastic about the Swaffham demonstration. The editorial writer recognises the good intentions of the demonstrators but looks upon them as being "slightly mixed-up". Allowing for the fact that the I.L.P. is a party which suffers from tapeworms (at one time it had to fight a communist fifth column in its midst, later it was the Trotskyists. And since the latter joined the Labour Party, it's the pacifists who have been undermining the Party which only asks to be left alone to go through the motions of any self-respecting party aiming at getting candidates elected to Parliament) and therefore has a rather sour outlook on life, the *Socialist Leader's* criticisms have a certain validity. The first is that the campaign should be directed against "conventional" armaments and the idea of war itself, and not just against rocket bases. They are criticisms we have ourselves levelled at the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament at various times the more so since, in the view of the writer of these lines, a "conventional" war is a much more real possibility in the near future than extermination of the human race by H-bombs. But we do not feel such criticism has any real bearing on the effectiveness of the Swaffham demonstration. The second point made by the *S.L.* was that the demonstrators in the main were supporters of the Labour Party "and would support a Labour candidate in an election against, say, a member of the I.L.P."

Now apart from the fact that the *S.L.* reveals its own interest in votes just like any other political party, its assumptions are wrong. *Peace News* (Jan. 2) publishes the results of a questionnaire completed by 69 of the 100 demonstrators at Swaffham on Dec. 20, showing that whereas only 15 and 5 were the supporters of the Labour Party and Communists respectively, 46 were supporters of no party. But when the *S.L.* points out that "pacifists generally" who support the Labour Party and *Peace News* which carries on "an intense campaign against war, and helps to put people in the House of Commons who are not opposed to war . . .", are "mixed-up", they are talking sense, and one hopes that in fact the Direct Action group within the pacifist movement represents the positive protest

against not only the "mixed-up" element but also the dead-hand of the respectable sponsors, directors and management committees, as was the Forward Movement in the early months of the 1939-war.

*Peace News* is at the cross-roads. Our friend, Hugh Brock, the editor, and his assistant Christopher Farley are in prison for their part in the demonstration, and Michael Randle, chairman of the Direct Action Committee "has asked to be relieved of his duties in the publishing department, and left *Peace News* last week to take up full-time work with the "D.A. Committee against Nuclear War". The Editorial in last week's issue (Jan. 9) "Politics and the Bomb" attacks the Labour Party and exposes the duplicity of Michael Foot and *Tribune* for soft-peddalling the H-bomb in favour of the Party, but it is clear that the writer still thinks in terms of party politics when he writes:

All pacifists, as well as those who have campaigned for the renunciation of the H-bomb, have, we suggest, a moral obligation to do what they can to ensure that the issues that they have declared to be of supreme importance shall figure in the forthcoming election.

The *New Statesman* (Jan. 3) in its editorial "Propagandists and Witnesses" surprisingly dismisses all the "respectable" criticisms of the demonstration and concludes:

First, there can be no doubt that the 'expediency' wing of the Labour Party has gained a decisive upper hand in recent years, and that with Mr. Bevan's defection the 'principle' wing has lost its voice. Second, in the case of the rocket-bases, the constitutional methods of the campaign have been shown to be ineffective: the official Labour line is to oppose the bases, but in practice it has done nothing. The demonstrators can reasonably claim that, the resources of the constitution having been exhausted, they are at liberty to seek others. Third, and most important, is time. Society could afford to take twenty years to end the slave trade. The nuclear holocaust may be lit tomorrow. What drives the marchers down the road to Pickenham is the sound of time's winged chariot behind, trundling its cargo of death.

Fine! But what do the pundits of the *New Statesman* propose as the next step? And what part are they as a journal, and as individuals, proposing to play?

FIRST and foremost the importance of the Swaffham demonstration is for those who actually took part in it. Leaving aside the outside reactions (on the one hand more than 2,000 greetings and presents from well-wishers, on the other the hostility of most of the workers on the building site, and in the village), those who went the whole hog and, as we write, are drinking their evening mugs of cocoa, and flavouring their "cob" with a microscopic piece of "mouse-trap", far from feeling depressed or regretting their actions will feel the real power that exists within each of us! The power to feel free within the confines of a prison cell; the strength to forego two days' public holiday and tradition in return for the promise of being on "good behaviour" (in the eyes of the law) for one week; the principle of preferring fourteen days behind bars than 365 days conditional freedom outside; the sudden awareness that the things that matter most in life are those to which we give least time . . . and vice versa!

THE lessons of Swaffham are many and we have hinted at but a few. They are tactical and moral. Because we think that the special need today is for us as individuals to put our own houses in order, we have placed more stress on the moral aspects of the demonstration, and we are grateful to these young people who, by their uncompromising actions, not only have made us re-live, what is for us, an exciting "past", but have prodded us into looking for an equally exciting future!

## What Lies Ahead for Castro?

FEW anarchists can be so unromantic as to dismiss the exploits of Fidel Castro and his rebel band in Cuba with the usual suspicious and cynical remark to the effect that he is just another leader like all the others. Some would even go so far as to make comparisons with some of the anarchist heroes of the Spanish Civil War. A distinction must of course be made between actions and motives — Castro's actions in Cuba since 26th July, 1956, up till the moment of victory over the Batista government have been such as to provoke a good deal of admiration in all liberal quarters — the great question now is what happens next? For it is at this point that the motives of Castro and his "small bunch of amateurs" commence to be seen for what they really are. It is now that the revolution is to begin.

It would certainly not be fair to place Castro in the same category as "all the others": there are considerable differences in a number of respects. It is insufficient simply to say that he stands for democracy, Catholicism and moderate socialism, although this may nominally be his platform. His revolutionary movement has been founded on quite different lines from other recently successful movements in South America. In Argentina, Nicaragua, Colombia, Brazil and Venezuela the revolts which have overthrown dictators have been led and/or greatly assisted by the regular forces of the government in power. Castro has overthrown the regulars and in doing so has knocked the prop from under the government. His irregulars were recruited, not by bribes of money or preferential treatment, for none of them were paid and victory appeared so far off as almost to negate any promises which might have been made; added to which an almost puritan code of discipline was imposed. His men may therefore be assumed to have fought for a better, freer and more liberal Cuba, though

not for a Cuba free of Government and Church authoritarianism.

But this may be a far cry (in degree) from the exchange of one dictatorial government for another. Without doubt Fidel Castro could become dictator of Cuba, but he has expressly stated: "Power does not interest me, and I will not take it." He has nevertheless agreed to be Chief-of-Staff of the armed forces — a position of power from which he may either defend Cuba from dictatorship, or guarantee the continuing existence of a dictatorship should one arise; the choice unquestionably rests with him for the present.

So far, presumably under his guidance, his nominee President, Manuel Urrutia has announced rule by decree for 18 months or 2 years, after which it is proposed that free elections should take place and democracy become Cuba's way of life. All existing Governors, Congressmen, majors, aldermen, judges and tax collectors have been removed from office, and summary courts have been abolished. The trappings of Batista's corrupt régime are in fact being removed.

Unkind as it may seem there is perhaps an analogy between de Gaulle and Castro. Both are patriots no doubt, neither has much faith in democracy now, both hold the future of their respective nations in the palms of their hands — for good or bad. Castro's ideals are probably the finer, for he has not yet had to compromise them to any great extent, though by all accounts his ideas have "modified" considerably in the past two years and already he has stated that Cuba is "not yet ready for such radical measures" as nationalisation! (This cannot be said to be very radical for a Socialist, and is thought to be a political move not to antagonise the U.S.A.). Gathered around him are a band of men who owe him absolute allegiance men with ideals similar

to his own; but also there are the men who financed his revolution, the businessmen in Havana and New York who have few ideals, only business interests. What sort of men will obtain power in Cuba, for if Castro is set upon his democratic course there will be power to be taken. It will depend upon Castro as to whether President Urrutia surrounds himself with bad politicians or just . . . politicians. Eventually he may have to make a choice between two evils, or perhaps the choice may pass out of his hands.

In any event he still has to face the personal problem of what action to take when the factions begin to fight for control and undemocratic decisions have to be taken: when the men who fought with him become disillusioned and have to be dealt with, and the prisons begin to fill up with old comrades-in-arms. He will have to decide at what point he will require his own secret police, and how much power shall be given them; how far he must compromise with the financiers and politicians in order to achieve some of his ideals. It will be necessary to come to terms with the U.S.A., but at what point will American credit become American ownership?

Schools will have to be built and industry developed, sacrifices will have to be imposed. The delicate balance between necessary capital for expansion and the needs and demands of the people will have to be maintained. Pressure groups will press. Fidel Castro will have to decide.

"The last of the pure idealists" will be forced to jettison some or all of his ideals and govern, or resign from the attempt, for government and idealism are, for all practical purposes, contradictions in terms. It is also possible that 32-year-old Castro will simply set up his own puppet dictatorship and rule by decree until he is deposed by some starry-eyed revolutionary idealist.

## Well Done, Schoolboys!

"1958 was Year One of the Space Age". THAT remarkably original observation could have come from no-one else but a television interviewer. This particular one was off to interview the boys at this year's Schoolboys' Exhibition at Olympia.

However, when he got there he had to approach no fewer than seven of them, before he could find one interested in space travel. The general opinion was that rockets and sputniks were "not very interesting" or "a waste of time". One twelve-year-old advanced his positive suggestion that instead of wasting money on rockets, it should be spent on providing houses for natives who lived in mud huts. The interviewer was so taken

aback by this that he asked the boy if he was really serious! It is only fair to add that the copybook was blotted by an eleven-year-old whose ambition was to become, not a space pilot, but a Catholic priest, an ambition he had held, he said, since reaching the age of reason at five.

Nor was that all. In a radio programme with a "Round the Commonwealth for the New Year" angle, the representative of Ghana expressed his hope for 1959 that people would stop sending up sputniks, and take time to live.

Perhaps then, despite the Russian rocket, the outlook for 1959 is showing some signs of a change for the better.

## Students of all Schools Unite!

EQUALLY heartening was a letter which appeared under the above title in *Tribune* (12/12/58) from a sixth-former who has clearly got the right ideas:

"Many pupils are anxious at Labour's plans to change the face of the old grammar-secondary modern system without consulting the workers concerned — US!

"This high-handed decision, taken without thought for the pupils' own opinion, is making many of us who would otherwise support the idea for a comprehensive education for all boys and girls, doubt whether such a change would not be just one more attempt by a government department to push us around because we are just KIDS!

I know, because I am just one such pupil!

For centuries we have been pushed around by monks, then Squeers's, and now the Ministry of Education. Give us freedom and you will gain faith in your plan from every pupil everywhere!

What boy or girl wants to be whisked

teacher and thought unjust by the recipient would be withheld until the council had dealt with it.

The council would be the ultimate deciding factor for all cases and appeals, and would be empowered to endorse or veto a teacher's decision. It would have full legal rights to act upon its decisions.

Not only would such a system be the ideal Socialist plan for the running of Labour's comprehensive schools, but it would instil a sense of responsibility into the pupils, make them good citizens, and combat hooliganism so rife today.

Let us have the comprehensive schools, and let US run them!

SIXTH-FORMER.

(Name and address supplied).

## Readers of FREEDOM UNITE!

PROGRESS OF A DEFICIT! WEEK 1

Deficit on Freedom	£20
Contributions received	£15
DEFICIT	£5

January 1 to January 8

An Australian Churchmouse: £1/5/0; Exmouth: A.B.H. 5/-; London: J.E.S. 2/6; London: Anon. 2/-; Nottingham: K.N. 12/6; London: J.S.\* 3/-; Glasgow: J.S.A. 10/6; Cleveland: G.D.A. 14/-; Holwell: H.E.H. 10/-; Preston: R.S.M. 13/9; High Wycombe: J.R.G. £1; Bradford: J.P. 6/-; Alton: P. & G.M. £1/11/6; Barnet Green: A.R.L. £2/1/0; Anon. £2/11/0; New York: R.L.P. 14/-; Oxford: Anon.\* 5/-; Worthing: R.G.A. 2/-; London: J.G. 5/-; Worthington: J.H. 7/6; Wolverhampton: J.G.L.\* 2/6; Bristol: E.B. £1; Oakhurst: K.K. 4/6.

1959 TOTAL TO DATE ... £15 8 3

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# 'The Sore Spot of To-day's Anarchism'

DEAR COMRADES,

In this letter are suggestions to the letter of comrade Arthur W. Uloth, published in No. 50, of FREEDOM, December 13, 1958, with the title "An Anarchist Nation?"

I agree on the whole with the suggestions of comrade Uloth. He puts his finger on the sore spot of today's Anarchism, i.e. plenty discussions and very little action, and an ounce of action is better than a pound of theory, as the old proverb says. We have plenty of theories for every question of life but we do not try them out sufficiently in practical life. We hope too much for a glorious revolution, and therefore hardly ever counsel how we could and should take and demonstrate living and practical Anarchism of everyday life to the people by our own examples. Examples speak quite another language than mere words.

The peoples have been told so many lies by politicians, statesmen, churchmen, militarists, scientists, lawyers, etc., that owing to this fact the majority imagines that Anarchists are the same sort of lying hypocrites, or even worse. This biased point of view we can only overcome by examples and demonstrations of the anarchical conception of human life. Every person we come into contact with, we should tell in the first place that we are Anarchists, and treat him, or her, like a comrade as far as Mutual Aid and Solidarity are concerned. Every comrade can do so, I do so, and I have lost never a penny by it, on the contrary gained much good will, and even sometimes offers of money for my advices. There are of course exceptions, but the people are on the whole good, and thankful if they see that they are treated honestly. But it is not only on the economical side where Anarchists can give good examples, good advice is of the same value, and sometimes even better, according to the needs.

We Anarchists, not being authoritarians, and telling the truth accordingly, as we see it, and the majority of us striving to improve our knowledge, therefore we have a deep insight into the life of the modern society. We should strive to be able to give advice in matters which concern: War, militarism, science and biology, hierarchy and religion, laws and justice, state and capitalism, and first of all Anarchism and the free Society.

Every comrade should try this work in the circle of his acquaintances, and give the people advice which they can have nowhere else, not even for money, and make it his aim to be the confidential man of the people, from there it is not far that the people become Anarchists.

## Receptions for a Murderer

Continued from p. 1  
Oppression and racial disturbances. Perhaps the two are connected.

The only reason to identify Mikoyan with the Armenians, or citizens of the USSR in general, springs from the idea that rulers somehow represent their people. His meetings with Dulles can then be seen, as they are by democrats and fellow-travellers alike, as being a get-together of Russia and America to talk peace. The two sets of rulers have however, more in common with each other than with their peoples. Imagine how much more efficient America would be if its government used some of the methods developed, and improved, by the Soviet leaders.

The basic reason for Mikoyan's visit is of course to smooth out knotty points where governments are bumping into each other, particularly over Berlin. Neither side is concerned with the fate of the people of Berlin, but both would like the matter to be cleared up, so as to maintain the balance of power in the interests of both. As FREEDOM has pointed out in recent issues crises such as this one are important to states because of their value in promoting internal coherence against a common enemy, and justifying totalitarian measures, and the social structure of government, as being necessary to keep out the enemy. It would be a tragedy if the spark really did set off the powder barrel.

It isn't possible to judge what the motives of the anti-Mikoyan demonstrators were, apart from justifiably letting off a bit of personal steam, but they would be mistaken if they hoped to persuade the American upper set to act as they preach, and disown the bloodstained visitor. Perhaps though, this revelation of hypocrisy will encourage them to realise that the most practical step towards liberation is to set about ditching their own rulers.

SYNDICALIST.

This is one aspect for developing Anarchism, of course there are many others. For instance, here in Germany, we discuss at present in our groups, the problem of issuing our own money. Of course not to counterfeit the money of the state, but money which keeps its original value and purchasing power, for circulation amongst Anarchists, and all the people who are tired of being robbed by the state by inflation. The state and capitalism get rid of their debts by inflation, and have on top of it the chance to pay their workers and employees inflated wages and salaries. By inflation only the workers suffer and employees, and the small fish, who being only small capitalists, have their money invested in bank-accounts and public bonds.

We had two inflations in Germany in the last 25 years, one directly after each war. It seems an inflation is a very good device to pay war debts with the money of the most downtrodden.

In inflation there is no limit how close to valuelessness the money may go. In the inflation after the first World War, which lasted nearly six years in Germany, the price of an American dollar was a thousand billion Marks, before the inflation, it had been 4.20 Marks for a Dollar. And during the inflation the wages and salaries had sunk to 50%, in spite of that, the German workers had a weekly earning averaging four thousand billion Marks; before the inflation, a wage of 30 Marks a week was supposed to be fair. Inflation is a wonderful game to bamboozle people out of earnings and savings.

Fraternally,  
Wuppertal, Germany. W.F.

## Swaffham and Non-Violence

COMRADES,

As one of those who took part in the demonstrations on the rocket site and at Swaffham, but who avoided arrest for despicable reasons, may I say that this exhilarating experience (after any anarchist's heart I should have thought) has shown that non-violent resistance is a weapon of great power, and throws considerable responsibility upon those who use it?

Apart from anything else it is extraordinarily economical of time: a few hours at North Pickenham gained more publicity than many months of conventional campaigning. And the courteous behaviour of the Norfolk Constabulary, eyed of course by scores of reporters and camera-men, was in part their reaction to the non-violent methods of the demonstrators.

There is no need to point out to readers of FREEDOM that the basic needs of human beings throughout the world are not incompatible, nor that war as a means of solving economic or psychological conflicts is entirely outmoded.

But events at Swaffham have suggested that non-violent resistance against this country's war preparations could provide a training-ground now for the mass use of this weapon against an invader. For those whose minds can only think in terms of a deterrent this could become a real alternative to the nuclear one, and a more realistic training than for Civil Defence which lulls people into a false sense of security.

London, Jan. 11. TONY WEAVER.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### REGINALD REYNOLDS

DISCERNING to a degree, Reginald Reynolds, poet, satirist and sociologist of Somerset Quaker stock, Chelsea preferences and world-wandering propensities, packed point, punch and laughter into a life during which he was joyously ever right at the wrong moment, not unlike the prophets of old.

Normally with one foot in his basement hovel in Chelsea and the other in the Reading Room of the British Museum, he was ever prepared to stride off to some oppressed land and there gather material for a book which might provoke initial disagreement but whose infinite compassion evoked a good response eventually.

Like his fellow-traveller, Ethel Mannin, for whom all will feel the keenest sympathy, Reginald Reynolds was always ready to take practical steps to lessen the difference between what things are and what they ought to be. Taking all heaven and earth for his province, it seems appropriate that when Reginald came to die it should be at the other end of the earth from where he was born.

I have a choice memory of this gangling, ever-youthful man of infinite resource and charm sprawling in an armchair of ours balancing a cup of tea while he discoursed of the past, anticipated the future and prepared an index for one of his books, all at the same time. Recollecting his ceaseless, multitudinous activity it is terribly hard to believe that his great loving spirit is stilled.

Torrington, Jan. 4. SAM WALSH.

## Yes, We Have No Bandannas

I'VE been seeing rather a lot of nude flesh in the cinema lately. It began with *Isle of Levant*, which you can still see by going to Ealing or Putney or somewhere; then there was *Unashamed* at the Continental, and now *Summer with Monika* at the Paris-Pullman. I don't know quite whether I was left feeling braced, or rather flat as one might after being, well... Like most people I am not a nudist, but, as the forger said, "I know what I like". That is, I like beautiful bodies, particularly female ones, I think there is a time and place for everything, including erotic play. All the same, the more spontaneous the time is, as in other cases of the latter, the better; and that is what makes me wonder what this 'ism' is really good for.

The result of repealing silly laws about indecent exposure would be an increase not of license, but spontaneity. However, there is always the sexual offender whom one wants to defend oneself against. This raises the old question whether one cures a criminal by stopping him getting what he wants, or by giving it to him. (It is usually love, in one form or another).

The Swedes have few compunctions about undressing. In spite of Lutheranism, their easy informality has come to stay. But the colony is another thing.

*Unashamed* is the story of a Californian colony. The ideological content is explicit: nudism offers a release from anxiety. To be sure, at the beginning of the film it does. We open with an Elysian panorama of mountains and

A mining village opened its heart during the week-end to a man who lost his wife and home in a fire.

Miner Arthur Catherall, aged 50, his daughter Vera, aged 13, and twin sons Arthur and Billy, seven, escaped from the fire in Hawthorne Avenue, Armthorpe, near Doncaster, Yorkshire.

But Mr. Catherall's 45-year-old wife Alice, a semi-invalid, did not escape. And all the family's furniture and clothing was lost.

Within an hour of the fire Doncaster rural council gave the family a prefab in Chestnut Avenue.

Three women scrubbed it out and put curtains up at the windows.

A miner hired a lorry and brought a three-piece suite.

Others brought a table, chairs, beds, bedding and carpets.

Women and children stocked the pantry with fresh and tinned food.

A ton of coal was delivered from the pit.

Yesterday at a special meeting of the 2,500-strong National Union of Mineworkers branch at Markham Main pit, Armthorpe, it was decided to hand £100 in cash from union funds to Arthur Catherall today.

The miners' secretary, Mr. Joe Cole, said: "That £100 is just for Arthur's immediate needs."

"Arrangements are being made to raise more money at clubs, pubs, and through local welfare organisations."

Mr. Catherall said last night at a relative's home: "Hundreds of people want to help us. I don't know how I can ever thank them."

"Within hours of the fire we have a new home almost fully furnished and almost everything we need. This village has a wonderful big heart."

He will pin a note on the pit notice-board thanking all his friends.

News Chronicle 12/1/59.

## Arms for the Dictator

THE British Government will no doubt find a scapegoat in the Foreign Office who can be held responsible for allowing the despatch of arms to General Batista right up to a few weeks of his fleeing from Cuba. It will not however explain away Mr. Selwyn Lloyd's refusal to give assurances to Mr. Hugh Delargy (two weeks before Batista fled from Havana) that no further shipments of arms would be sent, a "mistake" which the Government now hopes will be overlooked by their hasty recognition of the new régime.

Even the *Sunday Express* reproves the Government for not being well informed

about 'the situation' in Cuba. Not because a dictator was sent arms which were used against the people, because "it may be said", writes the *Sunday Express* editor:

"What's so dreadful about that? Need the anger of mere Cubans worry us?"

In reply to its own arrogant question the *Express* says:

"Of course not. But there is something that should cause us worry—the thought that our ambassadors in the really important countries could possibly be as badly informed as Mr. Fordham."

The Cubans we fancy will not be worried about the opinions of a mere British newspaper. Unfortunately, the views expressed in this paper are shared by large numbers of people in this country whose disregard for "mere foreigners" allows the Government to behave as it does, not only over the question of arms to help boost dictators, but in Cyprus and other territories where British economic interests have to be defended against the indigenous population.

## MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LONDON ANARCHIST GROUP

Regular Sunday meetings now held at "Marquis of Granby" Public House, Rathbone Street (corner of Percy Street, Rathbone Place and Charlotte Street), 7.30 p.m.

JAN. 18.—Vic Mayes on  
WHO ARE THE ANARCHISTS?

JAN. 25.—Arthur Uloth on  
A FREE SOCIETY IN OUR LIFETIME?

### ORPINGTON HUMANIST GROUP

Sherry's Restaurant  
(opposite War Memorial)

Sunday, January 11th, at 7 p.m.  
S. E. PARKER on ANARCHISM

### CROYDON LIBERTARIAN GROUP

Discussion meetings held every other Saturday at 7.45 p.m.

Saturday, 17th January

Arthur Uloth on

"AN ANARCHIST NATION?"  
at 228 Holmesdale Road,  
South Norwood, S.E.25.

## FREEDOM PRESS

### SELECTIONS FROM 'FREEDOM'

Vol. 1, 1951, *Mankind is One*  
Vol. 2, 1952, *Postscript to Posterity*  
Vol. 3, 1953, *Colonialism on Trial*  
Vol. 4, 1954, *Living on a Volcano*  
Vol. 5, 1955, *The Immoral Moralists*  
Vol. 6, 1956, *Oil and Troubled Waters*

Vol. 7, 1957, *Year One—Sputnik Era*  
each volume paper 7s. 6d.  
cloth 10s. 6d.

The paper edition of the Selections is available to readers of FREEDOM at 5/- a copy

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27, Red Lion Street,  
London, W.C.1.

wooded hills; soon, escaping from a city office, with its boredom and hypochondria, we are disporting among genuine nymphs and shepherds. The piquancy of thwarted libido is dissolved, as it is in Romantic poetry, in vague 'oceanic feelings'.

Even so, innocence is short-lived. A wants B, while B wants C. What happens? Well, the film leaves us in suspense. Indeed, the conclusion would be impossible on purely nudistic terms.

The conclusion we are drawn to is that sexual competition, and the securing of a mate, are inevitably embarrassing, and flight from Eros, whether unclothed or puritanically overclothed, is bound to end disastrously. The nudist colony, carried to its logical extreme, would abolish not only shame, but love, the biological process in which shame plays a positive role.

People have to mate; they have to defeat their own inferiority feelings as well as the intentions of their rivals; all this, without too frequent indulgence in the primitive behaviour-patterns of assault, rape and murder. And clothes play a necessary part in this. The tragic heroine of *Unashamed*, once she falls in love, drapes herself in a bandanna. After all, she is a member of the human race, not just a piece of flesh.

Fortunately, colonies are not the rule, the Levant, one of the Iles d'Hyeres, is simply a holiday resort without Puritanism (though probably overwritten: the Michelin Guide calls it 'desolate'). The film, though badly produced, is consequently happier. We have not abandoned the Goddess, nor the graces of social living.

Nudity should perhaps be regarded as a variety of clothing. Clothed eroticism is not necessarily meretricious, but socially useful and significant. Doctrinaire nudism has an eroticism of its own, but it is most often sterile and unappetising. A.D.F.

## LITTLE MAN, YOU'VE HAD A BUSY DAY

ONE of our comrades, whose appeal was recently turned down by a Conscientious Objectors' Appellate Tribunal, tells us that the solicitor for a previous appellant was late in arriving. He explained that he had been acting for the prosecution in a case where a Jehovah's Witness had refused medical examination. The tribunal accepted his apology with good humour and gave his new client conditional exemption! 'CRAINQUEBILLE'.

## SCANDALOUS!

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EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS

Revielle Poster

Who will they be photographing next?

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