

FREEDOM

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'No one can expect a majority to be stirred by motives other than ignoble.'

NORMAN DOUGLAS

ANARCHIST BALL

25th JAN

Fulham Town Hall

THE ANARCHIST WEEKLY - 4d.

SWINGIN'

Congo shuttlecock

struggle, for whatever action it took invariably roused the anger of one or more of the Powers. Just two years ago (Dec. 17, 1960) we wrote in these columns*

There may be no reason to doubt the sincerity of those permanent officials of the UN such as the Secretary General, Mr. Hammarskjöld, when he declared in a statement to the UN Council last week that he had not taken sides either between the power blocs or the political factions struggling for power in the Congo itself. But even if he tries to work according to the "rules" what chance of success can he have if some of the member nations undermine his efforts by operating their own forms of intervention in the Congo in order to protect their private interests?

At the time Mr. H. pointed out that it was difficult to see how the private armies which had led to the emergence of Colonel Mobutu as a military leader could have been possible without "some outside financial assistance", or for that matter similar armies in Katanga and Oriental Province. It was obvious at the time who was supplying the "outside financial assistance". And two and a half years later Katanga boasts an armed force of more than 25,000, and the United Nations forces reinforced by American military equipment which is, according to one source "now flooding in" is

*Reprinted in Selections from FREEDOM, Vol. 10, 1960.

carrying out a determined military action in Katanga which appears to have caught Tshombe off his guard.

It seems clear that this new phase in UNOC policy in the Congo has been determined by America with the tacit acquiescence of Russia, which from the beginning supported Lumumba—and who was therefore viewed with suspicion by America and the West (it will be recalled that the UNOC stood by with folded arms when Lumumba was captured by his political rivals and handed over to Tshombe who had him put to death). America's new line is that a solution of the Katanga-Congo problem removes the *raison d'être* for Russian intervention in Congo politics, thereby limiting the area of cold war politics. That this is done at the expense of British and French interests (Belgian interests already in 1961 were split as to what would be the best arrangement. Local managers of Union Minière in Katanga wanted separation to win whereas in Brussels a unitary Congo was considered best in the long term) merely underlines the recent Skybolt let-down: that power politics is the law of the jungle; "unity" a marriage of convenience to be broken or put in cold storage when it suits the con-

†See "Congo: a Threat to World Peace no More" (FREEDOM, 20/5/61). Reprinted in Selection from FREEDOM, Vol. 11, 1961.

venience of any of the partners!

THE British Government's condemnation of the UN's attempt to impose a political settlement in the Congo by force just does not bear examination. The same people who initiated the Suez military venture, are now deprecating the use of force in Katanga. In the Suez crisis they used force to protect their interests; they see the use of force in Katanga as a threat to their interests, and are opposed to it. So it's not force that they are opposed to but anything which threatens their interests!

Now to our minds, at no time has the UNOC threatened their interests. The present operation in Katanga is directed against Tshombe and not against Union Minière. More exactly, it is not directed against Tshombe but aims at neutralising the political struggle in the Congo by obliging Tshombe to share his mining royalties with the rest of the Congo.

It seems to us that if the sharing of the royalties between Katanga and the Congo is all that is at stake, UNOC is using a sledge-hammer to crack a nut. Apart from the fact that UNOC has incurred more expenses on military operations during the past two and a half years than the Union Minière made in profits—let alone the 61 per cent share paid over to the Katanga govern-

ment, it seems to us that the simplest way of dealing with this problem would have been for the UN to instruct the Union Minière in Brussels at the end of its financial year to transfer the royalties to Leopoldville and not to Elizabethville. All that is involved is a book-keeping operation!

THE *New Statesman* in its editorial last week states that the purpose of the UN presence in the Congo has always been threefold: to prevent civil war, to restore administrative order and to help the Congolese to help themselves. These objectives have been blocked by the secession of Katanga where most of the country's wealth is produced.

In stating the UN's objectives in these terms, it is no wonder that both the *New Statesman* and *Tribune* (in a front page article by Fenner Brockway) enthusiastically support U Thant's military measures in Katanga (The *N.S.* line is clear because they are uninhibited supporters of power politics whereas dear old Fenner wants to be at the same time a politician and a radical; to support U Thant and also declare that "Africans must solve the problem of the Congo").

We, that is the writer of this column, as an anarchist, are opposed to the United Nations because it was set up by the Big Powers in

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RALLY TO THE BALL!

IN spite of the well-known fact that anarchists don't believe in organisation, all the necessary organisation of the Anarchist Ball prior to the night has now been taken care of. All the advertising we can afford has been placed, attractive two-colour handbills and posters are available for all willing to make good use of them, and all comrades are urged to place their orders for tickets (preferably with cash!) right away. Please help with the distribution of tickets and handbills and if you know of a suitable notice-board (or wall) that could carry a poster, please get one up there.

On the night, there are many chores that can be tedious if the stint is too long, but which are negligible if shared among many. Some comrades last year hardly had time to enjoy themselves! Will all organisers of off-centre discussion meetings please recruit help from their regular visitors and let Jack Robinson (c/o "Freedom") know how many helpers will be available by Tuesday, 22nd Jan., when an FLA business meeting will be finalising details for the Ball.

Please remember also that the prime reason for this function is to raise funds to meet our Deficit. If any generous comrades are prepared to cover our expenses (all or in part) in advance, all strain and worry will be removed from those doing the work!

Last year's Ball was rated a great success. This year's must be even better.

ANARCHY 23

is on HOUSING

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INDUSTRIAL NOTEBOOK

The Struggle at Home and Abroad

LAST YEAR TURNED out to be very profitable for the Ford Motor Company, for they made £140 millions on the export market. They were the largest exporter of cars in this country and they have invested £40 millions in the expansion of the company.

The Chairman of the company, Sir Patrick Hennessy, spoke of 1962 being a wonderful year. From their point of view things had gone very well and they could look forward to an even better year in 1963.

This success story comes as no surprise, even in spite of the fact that reports in the kept press gave the impression that Fords were having a hard time. They continually built up a false image of the production at Fords being sabotaged by the actions of militant shop stewards, who were blamed for the loss of exports and accused of holding the country's prosperity to ransom.

The cry that was raised over the hold-up in the completion of the new factory at Halewood seemed somewhat unnecessary as it was stated at that time that production of cars would not start until Easter. Hennessy's attack on the Ford workers, together with the help of the press scored a success from the company's point of view. All disputes at Halewood have been settled, the fifty-four engineers installing the air-conditioning plant have voted to return to work, and the production of cars is scheduled to start at the end of February. Everything is set for another good year at Fords.

This new factory will employ more than 10,000 people. It will help to relieve the unemployment problem of Liverpool, but the workers at Halewood

will have to work a 44-hour week for two years as against Dagenham's 40 hours and will get 5d. per hour less. This was agreed on by the union leaders.

After over two months, the National Joint Negotiating Committee are still talking with the management of Fords about the suspended workers at Dagenham. Rank-and-File organisation has to be extended and strengthened if this type of thing is to be prevented.

What has sickened me most is the approach of the so-called "Liberal" press to labour disputes. They always emphasise that they are not against workers withdrawing their labour but they have never come out on the side of the strikers, even when the dispute was caused by flagrant injustices to the workers.

This I know is to be expected, but at the same time I think that some action can be taken to counteract it. As it stands now workers who are in dispute are attacked on all sides by the so-called "free" press and by the BBC, which is just the lap-dog of the government. To combat these attacks it is necessary to establish liaison between men in dispute and the workers in the printing industry.

Representatives of the men in dispute could inform the printers of the exact cause of the dispute. If then, the copy for the paper was giving a false picture of the dispute or even doing the strikers an injustice, the printers could refuse to print it. Perhaps an even better idea would be for them to print a report from the men in dispute.

This liaison together with other methods of action such as links with other factories and a total break from the

official union leadership would strengthen the Ford workers' hand enormously in their struggle against employers.

POWER WORKERS TAKE ACTION.

WORKERS AT 73 power stations throughout the country have taken unofficial action to further their pay claim, by starting a work to rule campaign.

The cause stems from the government's income policy and negotiations have been long and drawn out, with an arbitration offer being turned down by the unions.

The work to rule has already caused power cuts. This shows what a sorry state the nationalised electricity industry is in, when a policy of power cuts is pursued because the men refuse to work overtime.

Workers in the industry have waited patiently for their pay claims to be met and even the patience of the union negotiators has come to an end. After another series of talks lasting for 15 hours, they recommended an official work to rule commencing on Wednesday. This recommendation will probably be endorsed by union leaders on Monday.

Of course the Electricity Council have said that the work to rule would make things very hard during this bad weather, but they didn't state the other side of the story, that it has been very hard for the men working in power stations to make ends meet. Why should we have to work long hours for low wages when this state-owned industry makes huge profits every year and wastes no end of money on advertising, and like most state-owned industries, pays the lowest wages.

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CONGO SHUTTLECOCK

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order to divide up the world into agreed spheres of influence and thereby contain and control any revolutionary movements that might upset the *status quo*. (The lessons of World War I had not been lost on the politicians of World War II). That veto is both the symbol and the reality of their power and the disunity of the United Nations. The UN organisation cannot exist without the financial support of member nations. Needless to say it depends on the financial support of the Big Powers. So far as its activities in the Congo are concerned, since a large number of member nations, including Russia, refuse to pay their share, it is, financially speaking, bankrupt, and if it has been in the position in the last fortnight to assert its "authority" as it has been unable to do in the past two and a half years, what other conclusion can one draw than that America is underwriting the venture? The fact that the American government underwrites the Adoula government means that Communist stooges throughout the world attack him on principle (whatever the two Mr. Ks may have decided among themselves). Thus the *Daily Worker* (1/2/63) writes:

The line of the American State Department and the U.S. monopolies has been to control the Adoula Government, and, through that control and by using the UN, to bring the whole of the Congo, including Katanga under U.S. domination.

We do not disagree with this analysis. The *Daily Worker* would not however agree with us when we argue that Russia, no less than Britain, America or Belgium is interested in solutions to the Congo "crisis" which further her (Russia's) interests rather than the well-being and future of the Congolese. We are not interested in the Balance of Power. It is the objective of anarchists to destroy it. Therefore when we are told that the presence of the UN in the Congo is "to prevent civil war" and "to restore administrative order" we declare that the UN is reactionary, counter-revolutionary, a tool of capitalism (of New York or Moscow).

With the withdrawal of the Belgian colonialists, the problem facing Congolese was not one of "restoring administrative order" or "preventing civil war", but of tackling the problem of providing for the basic needs of the population by the people themselves. To say as does the *New Statesman* that the "country's wealth" was produced by Katanga, is to presuppose that life can be maintained more profitably by the production of copper than by the production of food. The fact is that half the world's people go hungry, whereas there is a glut of mineral and metal production (yet Union Miniere in 1961 made £28m. profits, employing only 20,000 workers, that is £1,400 from every worker employed by them!).

The UN's "objective" of "restoring administrative order" and "preventing civil war" has in our opinion nothing to do with "helping the Congolese to help themselves". The problem of the world, no less than of the Congo, is to produce *more food* so that the hungry half of the world may enjoy at least the necessities to maintain life. Even assuming that money is the passport in a

capitalist economy to the enjoyment of the necessities of life, the fact remains that unless food is produced in sufficient quantities to satisfy the needs of everybody the possession of money *per se* will not guarantee for all the means to maintain life. When the *New Statesman* argues that the future of the Congo hinges on the mineral and metallic wealth produced by Katanga it exposes itself as yet another stooge of the capitalist way of thinking. The prosperity of a nation or of this planet depends on our ability to produce the food we need to maintain life at a level which permits us to develop and flourish. The present "prosperity" of a few favoured nations is bought at the expense of the starvation of millions of our fellow human beings. We hope that none of our well-fed readers will overlook this basic fact.

The pre-occupation of the UNOC with the revenues from Katanga's mineral wealth reflects America's desire to control rather than a serious attempt to solve the basic needs of the Congo's 7 million hungry mouths. If the UN had poured its resources into developing the Congo's agricultural potential rather than playing politics, today the Congo might well be in a position to provide for its own basic needs. Instead, after two and a half years of "independence" the Congo is a mere financial pawn in the hands of American capitalism, sucked dry of revolutionary possibilities. The Congo joins the queue of "underdeveloped" countries waiting for the crumbs from the affluent nations, yet another potential popular revolution cunningly nipped in the bud.

Even recognising the power of money today, and we are the first to do so (as we hope we are the first to combat it), to suggest that the "prosperity" of the Congo hinges on the royalties of the Katanga mines is as false as assuming that because Kuwait receives huge royalties from its oil exploitation its tiny population should be the most prosperous in the world. We know that they are among the poorest, just as we know that the problem of the Congo is not the £14m. that their Exchequer will benefit by if Katanga can be forced to join a Federation or accept provincial status. All the underdeveloped countries need two things (a) education which includes "know how" so far as production of the basic necessities of life are concerned and (b) the necessities of life while they acquire it. Instead, development in all, or most, of the former colonial territories has followed the same pattern: investments or loans for industrial development; the establishment of luxury services (such as national Air-Lines, Embassies and UN representation, privileged living conditions for the new ruling class, etc.); the creation of national armies, police forces and a judiciary to protect those in power. This is the price of government from above as the President of Tanganyika pointed out to *Peace News'* correspondent John Papworth (which evinced no comment either from Papworth or *Peace News!*). In other words independence has simply meant the replacement of one privileged class by another, with the basic problems affecting the living standards of the people untouched.

IN SPITE of New Year resolutions the world got nought for behaviour. Mr. Billy Butlin gave £30,000 anonymously to Hammersmith Hospital research into kidney grafts which gift proved to be not as urgent as dramatized. Viscount Alexander of Hillsborough and William John Carron of the AEU furthered the one-at-a-time emancipation of the workers, Alexander becoming an Earl, Carron, a knight. Billy Butlin was not on this list but now the tallyman from the Providential can call to collect for Butlin holidays on the never-never. Thomas Cook and Sons decided to take tours of Limehouse and Chinatown off their tourist 'milk-run' schedule. Thomas Burke and Sax Rohmer turned in their graves. . . .

SOCIAL SURVEYS revealed that total mortgage debt in Great Britain at the end of 1961 was £2,881,000,000. One married woman in four goes out to work to pay for this mortgage, and labour-saving devices. The Rent Act reduced by two million the number of houses available for rent. The year started with 566,196 out of work. The weekly average of admissions to the cinema dropped from 7.8 million to 7 million. Illegitimate births in London increased by 1,102 to 7,632, one in eight of all babies born in the area, London's pre-eminence in this field is doubtless, says the county medical officer, because London offers anonymity and better welfare facilities. Unmarried mothers from overseas numbered 1,450, 1,000 were pregnant on arrival. Dr. Howard Jones said: "The modern family unit is going to pieces, but the family should not be made the scapegoat for delinquency. It is the result of changes in society and stems from a thirst for conformity and widespread deprivation." The cost to the State of tranquillisers prescribed in 1961 was nearly £2,500,000. The cost of keeping a patient in hospital rose to £29 19s. 9d. a week. The cost of getting James Meredith into the University of Mississippi and keeping him there cost about £1,500,000. It costs £6,156 a year to have eight constables controlling the road junctions near the House of Commons to facilitate the passage of MPs. . . .

FIVE THOUSAND CUBANS demonstrated outside the Swiss Embassy in Havana

Ambiguous Promise?

GREGORY CORSO in usually bracketed with Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg as one of the main spokesmen for the "beat" generation. In common with other "beat" writers some of his work is gimmicky and slipshod (He has, for example, written an awful, would-be romantic, article on Soho and its prostitutes for the sophisticated "leech" magazines like *Nugget*). Judging from this book of selected poems*, however, there is still more to him than fodder for his poetry does not have the powerful declamatory pound or the outraged anguish of Ginsberg at his best, one can find among the trivia poems of talent and sensitivity.

One poem that I liked—"I Am 25"—is good straight speaking to the defeated whose youthful lion's roar has shrunk to a senile squeak. Here is part of it:

"I HATE OLD POETMEN!
Especially old poetmen who retract who consult other old poetmen who speak their youth in whispers saying:— I did those then but that was then that was then—"

Paris evoked in him admiration and nostalgia:

"Childcity, Aprilcity,
Spirits of angels crouched in doorways,
Poets, worms in hair, beautiful Baudelaire;

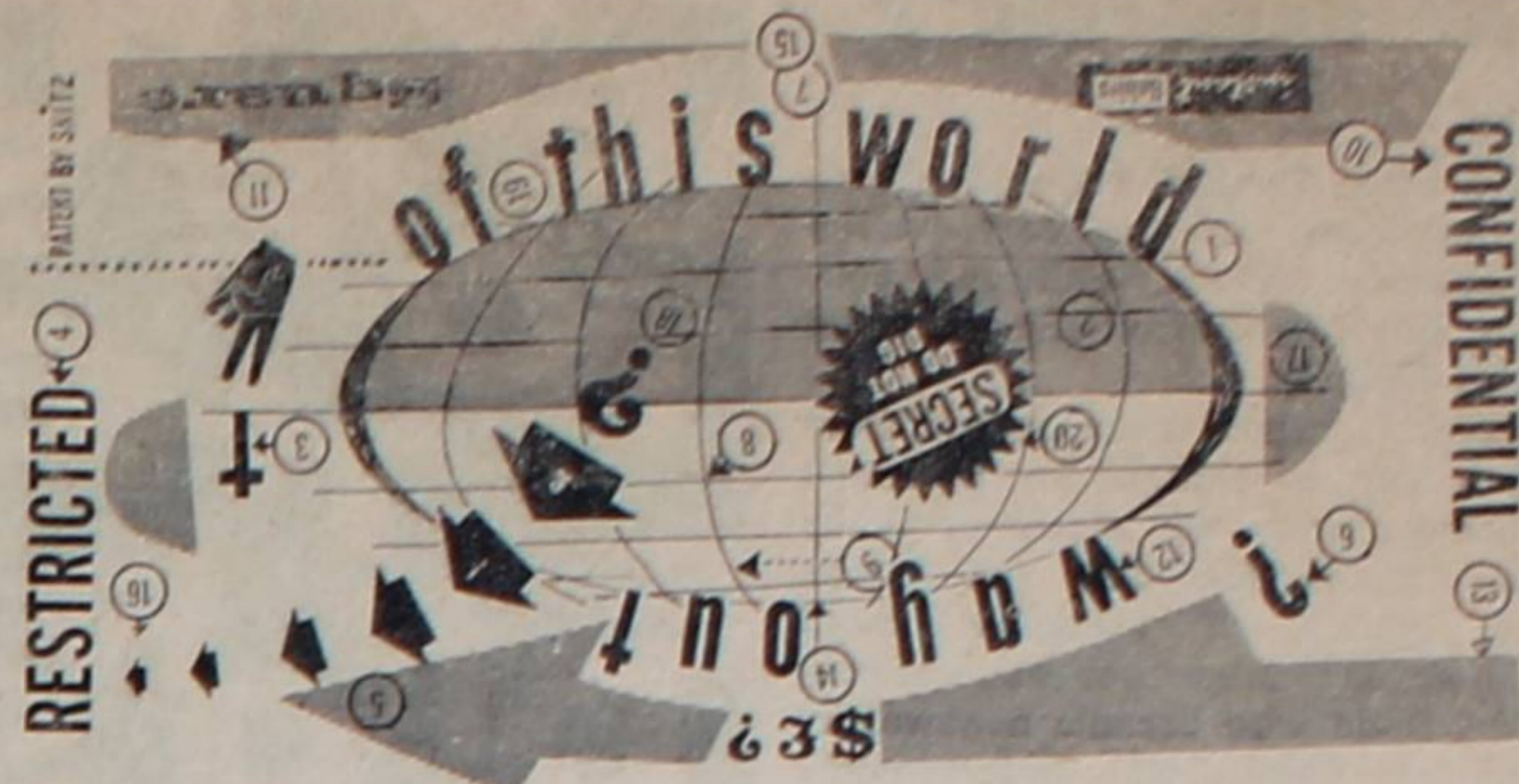
Artaud, Rimbaud, Appollinaire . . ."
Corso mostly writes *vers libre*, but he is not always a master of this medium and too often his efforts read like prose chopped up into uneven lengths. Free verse is not necessarily the easiest of poetic forms and it needs more than an axe to make it come alive. Sometimes he seems more at home with pieces that show the influence of more traditional forms—e.g.:

"In this lovely orchard perhaps stemmed from Eve's core I move in applelight continuum of no dimension no dominion . . ."

This is the first book by Corso to be published in Britain. At the moment his promise seems an ambiguous one. We can only wait and see if he will emerge as a real poet, or fall a victim to those glossy journals which are voracious for the unusual, but always take care to neuter its effect.

S. E. PARKER.

**SELECTED POEMS". By Gregory Corso. Eyre & Spottiswoode. 12s. 6d.



for aid to leave Cuba. The Swiss gave no help. Mrs. Roe Harmel of Johannesburg has been prohibited from leaving the town for the next five years. She is also prohibited from communicating with any other banned person (except by gracious clemency, her husband), she is banned from attending meetings and social gatherings and must report to the police every Saturday. An East German court sentenced a 24-year-old German to life imprisonment with hard labour for organizing the escape of refugees from East Germany. He had tunnelled through from West Berlin to establish contact with his mother and other relatives who have been imprisoned. In reply to criticism by an international body of jurists on civil liberties, General Franco raised the minimum wage from 4s. 6d. a day to 7s. 6d. a day. A Mr. Hugh Kay of Belgrave Road (round the corner from the Spanish Embassy), wrote to the *Guardian* protesting about the report of the International Commission of Jurists which said, among other things, "It is hardly possible to find in Spain one form of opposition activity which is not threatened by legal sanctions" and "the penal legislation for the protection of

the State is, in fact, legislation for the defence of the regime, which tends to repress any activity which is oppositional in character." Mr. Kay says, "We who live in a democratic regime have been criticizing General Franco's regime for illiberality. What is the point of reaffirming the reproaches of the past at the very moment when a dynamic young liberal team of new Ministers, appointed by Franco himself, is leading the country through an adventurous evolution heralded by the World Bank report in terms that were almost lyrical?" The Spanish Government denied that Julian Garcia said to be a member of the central committee of the outlawed Communist party, was tortured in the Madrid police headquarters after his arrest. He was gravely injured after jumping from a first floor window. The Spanish authorities say that a handcuffed man being tortured would not have had the strength to jump through a closed window. A member of Catholic Action was released from Saragossa prison. He was sentenced in 1960 to seven years' imprisonment for subversive activities, including offensive references to the Head of State. The forward of a Czechoslovakian ice-

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UNFAIR TO ADULTS

"ROCKETS IN URSA MAJOR, by Fred Hoyle—Mermaid Theatre, Puddledock Blackfriars, London, E.C.4.

THAT the rites, the mysteries and any fringe benefits of the sacred seasons were and should be purely an adult male preserve once went without question, from the toe-tapping fertility dances to the ceremonial disembowelling of a black-balled member of the group.

Within this stag affair only the X group were allowed to stamp a foot in the chorus or to inspect the prognosticate upon the ruined internal organs of a member of the minority opposition.

With the admittance of women there was a general lowering of standards, for most of the women insisted on dragging the kids along and children being what they are, the shame-faced male must now need an alibi to attend even the most garbled leavings of his once sacred ceremonies. No one can believe that the intricate toys-models were meant for the amusement of children, but a child must be in attendance should a man wish to operate them, whilst no firework can be lit without some runny-nosed youngster giving the order of firing. The pantomime, with the bawdy humour, *double entendre* catch-phrases and its transvestian leads was never meant for the child's nascent mind yet, what man would dare attend a performance without some attendant brat in tow? Not even the bar is sacred, for at the Mermaid one is forced to drink one's self into an alcoholic stupor surrounded by cow-eyed schoolgirls sucking American soft drinks.

All this is grossly unfair, for children are well catered for regarding their own simple pleasures. They have the snow to play with for their amusement, the daily press for the more slower-witted, while Hollywood has provided them with a surfeit of pleasure with films such as *Sodom and Gomorrah*, *Barabbas* and *Ben Hur* that contain enough rape, torture, slaughter and crucifixion to keep any normal child happy over the holidays. So that one can but plead that those who organize the rituals of the seasons will insist that the men are allowed to partake and enjoy them in appropriate group solitude. With the exception of the Catholic Church and the Windmill Theatre, little has been achieved, but the plea has been made. The Mermaid Theatre at Puddledock are presenting, for a limited season, *Rockets in Ursa Major* and again this parable for our times must be offered as a child's entertainment. But this story of stellar war and all its attendant horrors and inconveniences should have little interest for the young, but they were there in force. Based on a rather humourless script by Fred Hoyle and played against an impressive background

of electronic sound effects from Daphne Oram we are as one with the cast, as they face up to the threat of annihilation from unknown forces approaching from the star cluster Ursa major.

Hoyle has tossed his contemporary type characters forward into time, that the decaying Edwardian figure of Harold Macmillan is made to inform the nation that we are to make a last ditch stand against an Alien Intelligence aided on our side by a group of wild colonial boys fleeing from their own threatened planet and pausing for a passing spit and a draw on our distressed earth. It is revealing no secret to say that our lads win by a neat piece of galaxian genocide that wipes out all living life within the known universe, but if you are an Alien Intelligence you must expect to end up with the dirty end of the stick, even if Hoyle's rewards for the organizers of our victory are no more imaginative than a knighthood for the scientist and a barony for Betelgeuse, leader of the raffish space-creatures, first in war first in peace, etc.

The stark stage could have used more visual effects such as a few more bangs and flashing neons but apart from that, the show goes well with a competent cast adding by their own efforts, the laughter, that the heavy-handed script needed at times. But we adults sat through it to the end nervously fingering our CND badges, happy that our crowd survived the final threat but saddened at the liquidation of the Alien Intelligence. Only the small boys around me treated the matter irreverently, for they applauded the electronic howls, cheered the Outer-Space arrivals without even knowing how they stood on the various major political issues and shouted with laughter as the space guns went into action . . . Children!

Anarchist Ball

On January 25th at Fulham Town Hall with Mick Mulligan & his Band and George Melly

Guest Artists will include Sidney Carter, Bob Davenport, Red Nerk, Redd Sullivan, Wally Whyton.

Price 6/-. Refreshments available.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW from FREEDOM PRESS and DOBELL'S RECORD SHOPS

'Faith Rewarded'?

DEAR SIR,

I have often thought I would like to enter into some of the controversial correspondence which enlivens your columns, but it is difficult for me to do so at this distance.

However, I cannot keep myself from seizing a pen to express my profound disagreement with the views of Anne Albon, Charles Radcliffe and Diana Shelley (letters in FREEDOM dated 6.10.62) on the subject of the unfortunate Mr. Budd who became newsworthy because his family was unfortunately burned to death during his absence at Lourdes, where he went to seek a cure for his crippled condition.

As I see it, your straight report of the news item under the title "Faith Rewarded?" was appropriate, fair, and not at all callous nor in bad taste. Mr. Budd's visit to Lourdes, to make any sense at all, must pre-suppose his belief in miracles in this case a belief in the direct intervention of a personal God in the relief of human suffering. As a good Catholic, Mr. Budd not doubt believes that a loving God takes a personal interest in each of us, who are his children, and that Catholics are especially favoured in that they have the added benefit of the watchful eyes of Guardian Angels, Patron Saints, and many other God-given insurance policies. Now, here's the point—despite all this, and despite the fact that Mr. Budd was absent on a holy pilgrimage, to a place which God's own Mother had sanctified by her presence and good work, tragedy overtakes his family—and is permitted to do so by the ever-loving Father.

The headline "Faith Rewarded?" is a very mild comment I think, and certainly makes the point aptly and justly.

It seems to me that Anne Albon misses the true meaning of the story and the headline, when she comments that the headline "seems to presume that had he stayed at home, his wife and children would not have been burned to death, whereas it is far more likely

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

that he would have died with them, being a stretcher case".

Of course we have no means of knowing the incidents in the chain of events leading to the fire, but it is as likely as not that Mr. Budd's customary presence in the home would have broken that chain, and so prevented the accident. However, this is pure conjecture and not to the point.

C. Radcliffe and D. Shelley say that the story is "utterly irrelevant to anarchism". Here again, I disagree emphatically. Anarchism must necessarily concern itself with superstitious beliefs, and conduct arising from such beliefs, and our paper should be particularly active in exposing the grandiose but hollow claims of Catholicism which immature minds find so attractive and comforting.

And now I am going to be really nasty. I am going to attack the Editorial in the same issue—well—part of it anyway, because I am in agreement with most of it. In the Editorial opening remarks the writer opines "we feel that in this country Religion does not possess the legislative powers to impose its dogmas, its prejudices or its faith on those who do not recognise the existence of God, etc., etc."

The thought that arises in my mind is that there are millions of children at this very moment who are being efficiently and thoroughly indoctrinated into Catholicism, Methodism, Christian Science, Salvationism, etc., and that most of them will never recover from the effects of this initial mental maltreatment, and so will be incapable of giving their minds to a rational examination of religion later in life. When the human mind has been bludgeoned into a state of insensibility at an early age, there is no need for legislation to ensure that these inculcated ideas remain a real force. The idea that "God's in his Heaven, etc." is held by the majority of citizens, and such beliefs, however vaguely held or defined by any clear

thinking, have an enormously strong hold on the minds and imaginations of millions.

I have not lived in England for over 10 years, But I seem to remember the echoes which reached us here some time ago of the controversy over Mrs. Margaret Knight, who had the audacity to suggest in plain words that decent human behaviour and a sound system of ethics were possible, without being backed by any religious belief whatsoever. I seem to remember that the adherents of the various brands of Christianity were united in their uncharitable reactions to this lady. You only have to scratch these Christians and they will reach for the rack and the thumbscrews once again— But I digress— Yes— give us plenty of sensible, subtle attacks on all forms of superstition please. Irrational beliefs still remain the greatest problem in the acceptance or even the consideration of the ideas put forward in FREEDOM.

Yours faithfully,
R. BEAMS.

Hobart, Tasmania, Nov. 18.

Productivity

DEAR EDITORS,

In the controversy regarding the desirability or otherwise of high productivity in an anarchist society Francis Ellingham made one important point which has not so far been dealt with by his critics.

He stated that in present capitalist society the present trends towards higher productivity strengthen and consolidate capitalism and have the further effect of so de-humanising and regimenting the workers that the chances of an anarchist society become exceedingly remote. Francis' solution includes the promoting of spiritual values as expressed by such philosophies as Taoism and Zen Buddhism and he maintains that they (or something like them) are a pre-requisite of the free society.

However remote anarchism may be, it's a sight nearer than Taoism or Buddhism simply because it's easier to get people to understand and accept a relatively straightforward attitude such as anarchism than mystic philosophies which few can understand let alone accept.

What then are the chances for anarchism in a world where the capitalists and authoritarians reign supreme, where the population is de-humanised and regimented and where the so-called Socialist countries and the bulk of the workers have long since come to heel. Seems pretty gloomy at first sight, at least, it does in terms of armed uprisings or social general strikes.

Industrial Notebook

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The work to rule is a method of struggle which could be used in other industries, where the same conditions of work prevail. Workers were fighting for an 8-hour day, way back in 1886 and now after all these years it still hasn't been obtained. Without overtime, wages would be very low.

With the unemployment figures rising every week and in order to give work to more men, overtime should be banned in all industries throughout the country, and at the same time there should be an increase in the hourly rates of pay.

WAGE DEMANDS IN WEST GERMANY.

WE HAVE OFTEN read in the British press about the great German industrial recovery and how the German manufacturers have made inroads into the traditional British markets. However, it seems that German employers are anxious about increased wage demands which they fear will slow down the rate of expansion.

Herr Fritz Berg, the President of the West German Federation of Industry issued the all-too-familiar warning that "only adequate earnings and profits provide the money for the investments needed to preserve industry's competitive strength." The same old story, just as we keep hearing in Britain, tighten your belt and make sacrifices so that we can face competition from other countries.

Well it seems that the German worker has had enough of this talk and is after a bigger slice of the cake. Workers have won large pay awards over the last eighteen months and are pressing further demands this year.

Coal miners are claiming that they should have a higher wage than iron and steel workers who now get 2 per cent more than the miners. Building workers are to claim an increase this year and the railwaymen's union is going to take action if their claims are not met.

The German government too, is concerned over these wage claims and has called on the people to moderate their demands. It has asked the Germans

to show solidarity and service and reminds them of the help which they gave during the Hamburg floods and the Saar mine disaster. What a lot of old rubbish! The government is comparing the workers' demands for their share of the post-war boom, with a flood and mine disaster.

It looks as though labour relations in Germany during 1963 are not going to be as peaceful as in previous years.

PRINT STRIKE CONTINUES.

NEW YORK CITY is still without newspapers, while striking print workers have had a tough time in freezing weather on the picket lines. They are on strike for a 35 hour week and have been out for over a month.

Apparently, the manufacturers and city stores have reported a drop in sales and are blaming the strike for this. Television and radio have been pressed to take the extra advertising normally covered by the press.

One of the bosses of the New York Times, James Reston, has appeared on television extolling the pleasures of reading newspapers and how this strike was depriving the community of a service. It wasn't the service he was worried about but the loss of profits.

Anyway Kennedy has been asked to invoke that good old profit saver the Taft-Hartley Labour Law. This will mean a return to work for an 80 day cool-off, during which time the usual compromises can be agreed upon.

The New York City councilman who telegraphed Kennedy to invoke the act said, "Interstate commerce, communications and national health and safety involved— National emergency involved".

What eyewash this is! I suppose that national health and safety weren't threatened during the recent Cuban crisis and no doubt this councilman backed "Smiling Jack" all the way. P.T.

Sit-Down or Pay up List of Contributions. Oxford: L.O. 50/-; Croydon: A.U. 5/-; London: T.B. 2/6.

If accidental war is avoided and the population explosion doesn't engulf us there remains, I suggest, a fairly good chance for anarchism in the not too distant future. The driving force will be disillusionment with capitalism and authoritarianism and the results they bring. Anarchistic revision will occur in proportion to the amount of regimentation and de-personalisation which causes it. Don't forget that high production necessitates regimentation under capitalism. I believe that in spite of the apparent effects of the torrent of garbage pouring into people's minds from television, cinemas, hoardings, newspapers, etc., many people still preserve some basic sense of values and personal dignity. Witness for example the present teenagers and other young people who on the whole are more socially aware than previous generations. When these people undergo a revision with existing society they may well turn to anarchism and the few who have the required temperament may well turn to the mystic philosophies. The process can of course be hastened by the activities of educationists, psychologists and others with a long-term approach.

And even if things do get worse before they get better, always remember that the bigger they come the better they disintegrate. And of course in the meantime the capitalists are busy installing the automation to supply our future needs.

Yours faithfully,
JEFF ROBINSON.

London, N.W.6, Jan. 1.

Community?

DEAR EDITORS,

A small group are hoping to rent a large house suitable for sharing and are especially interested in people with children. The idea is to have a large playroom and possibly a dormitory (or dormitories) for the children, but individual accommodation for families, couples or persons. Will anyone to whom this appeals, please contact me at 202, Broomwood Road, London, S.W.11.?

S. E. PARKER.

Out of this world

Continued from page 3

hockey team refused to return with his team from Davos in Switzerland. Thirty-two Russians, members of an evangelical sect, forced their way into the American Embassy compound in Moscow after a four-day journey from Siberia, they were complaining of religious persecution and pleading to be sent abroad. The American Embassy asked the Soviet Foreign Ministry to "take appropriate care" of them and keep the American Embassy informed of the outcome. The State of Iowa closed the Amish sect's school in Iowa and imprisoned eight members of the sect for employing unqualified school teachers; the Amish are an offshoot of the Mennonites who left Europe to escape religious persecution in 1683. The United Nations ceased UN broadcasts to Hungary since the Hungarian question was no longer on the General Assembly's agenda. . . .

PURCHASE-TAX was reduced on staple necessities of life such as television and radio sets, gramophones and records, perfumery and cosmetics. Ice-lollies were reduced in price. . . .

BLIMPS WERE abandoned in the US Navy. General Lyman Lemnitzer replaced General Lauris Norstad as Supreme Commander Allied Powers in Europe. The microphones were too frozen to transmit their speeches. Unemployed at Worcester, Massachusetts were unable to collect relief cheques because the cheque-writing machine had frozen. . . .

RUDOLF HESS'S wife refused to declare her husband "feeble-minded" in order to get his release from Spandau prison where he is serving a life sentence for helping to plan a war of aggression. Baldur von Schirach in the same jail, sentenced to twenty years for "polluting the minds of children" has been refused permission to receive various gifts, such as warm winter clothing, nor are his children allowed to ask him how he is feeling. . . .

FORMER QUARTERS used by Tristan da Cunha islanders are being used as accommodation for homeless. US space scientists are planning to land instruments on the surface of Mars to determine whether life exists there. Norwegian atomis radiation experts said that radioactivity over Norway had increased because of Soviet tests and that special preventative measures might have to be considered if the tests continued on the same scale.

JON QUIXOTE

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS CENTRAL MEETINGS

- meetings to be held at
The Two Brewers,
40 Monmouth Street, WC2
(Leicester Square Tube)
Sundays at 7.30 p.m.
- JAN 13 Tony Smythe:
Revolutionary Pacifism
- JAN 20 Jack Robinson:
Were the Luddites Ideologically Correct?
- JAN 27 Oonagh Lahr:
Is Non-Violence Against
Human Nature?
- FEB 3 Jack Stevenson:
The Only Union
- FEB 10 Ken Weller:
The Industrial Struggle in 1963
- FEB 17 Bob Green:
Why Frances's Cat Likes Olives
- FEB 24 Brian Hart:
Nestor Makhno
- MAR 3 Tom Barnes:
Psychology and Anarchism
- MAR 17 S.F.:
The Great American Myth

OFF-CENTRE DISCUSSION MEETINGS

- 1st Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. at Jack and Mary Stevenson's, 6 Stainton Road, Enfield, Middx.
- 1st Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. at Colin Ward's, 33 Ellerby Street, Fulham, S.W.6.
- 3rd Tuesday at Brian and Doris Lelie's, 242 Amesbury Avenue, S.W.2 (Streatham Hill, Nr. Station).
- Third Wednesday of the month, at 8 p.m. at Albert Portch's, 11 Courcy Road (off Wood Green High Road), N.8.
- Last Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. Tom Barnes', Albion Cottage, Fortis Green, N.2. (3rd door past Tudor Hotel).
- 3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald & Irene Room's, 148a Fellows Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3. Please note that the meetings at Fellows Road, N.W.3 are now on the third Friday, not the third Wednesday as hitherto.
- Last Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. at George Hayes', 174 Mcleod Road, Abbey Wood, S.E.2.
- Notting Hill Anarchist Group (Discussion Group)
- Last Friday of the month, at Brian and Margaret Hart's, 57 Ladbroke Road, (near Notting Hill Station), W.11.

OXFORD ANARCHIST DISCUSSION GROUP

(gown, town and district)

Meets Wednesdays, 5.30
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