

Out of The Blue Comes The Whitest Wash

THE PLAGUE

INFECTIONS, ARTIFICIALLY PROVOKED, and occurring in a future war among the soldiers or the civil population, would place a tremendous burden upon the medical service. It can only be mentioned here that this aim would be attained by spreading of germs or toxins inside the country. The principal possibilities are:

- Infection of the water supply.
- Infection of animals, rats, mice, insects, may prove useful in the spreading of contamination and in the direct infection of cattle and horses. This would, indirectly, also affect the food supply, especially the milk supply.
- Infections may also be used to diminish the harvest and destroy the edible agricultural products by spreading parasitic plants and insects all over the country by means of sabotage or special mechanical means, such as special bombs hurled from aeroplanes, or sent with the wind, or by automatic means—*Chemical Warfare* (1941) by Curt Waechter, founder of Pharmacological Section of Kaiser Wilhelm Institute (Biographical note): 'Subsequent to the World War (1914-18) Dr. Waechter made a survey of noxious gases in England, France, Russia and the United States. In Russia, after the Franco-Soviet Pact was signed, he served as Professor at the Central Institute of Medical Chemistry and acted as Consultant to the Civil Air Defence. Today he is resident of the United States and has written this book in the hope that it will be helpful to the military of his adopted country.'

A warning was issued by the United Nations World Health Organisation in Geneva last Friday that the Middle East is threatened by the worst cholera outbreak since 1939. More than 1,000 cases in one week have been reported in both Afghanistan, where the epidemic was discovered on July 22, and in East Iran, the *Daily Mail's* Geneva correspondent wrote on Friday.

The WHO said that there was a growing danger the disease would sweep westward at any moment and hit Teheran, the capital of Iran. It was believed at first that the epidemic was of only the mild type of cholera but now the WHO has established that it is the most dangerous variety.

The organisation has sent 500,000 doses of vaccine to Afghanistan, where the disease is under control. But supplies have run out and the WHO is now buying stocks from private European makers and the Philippines government. A cholera expert, Dr. Yoshikazu Watanabe, of Japan, has been sent to the stricken areas.

Cases have been reported also from the island of Bahrain, in the Persian Gulf, and from Iraq, though the Iraqi government has denied there is an epidemic in the country.—*Peace News* (28.8.65).

In 1665, Eyam, in Derbyshire, was stricken by the Plague, brought, it was

said, in a bale of cloth from London. The Rector called the villagers together and explained that to leave the village would mean carrying the Plague to other areas, to stay meant probable death. The villagers chose death. They remained within their boundaries and food supplies were brought in from outside, left in windblown spots by frightened messengers, and paid for with money placed in running water. Eyam lived for a year in isolation.—*The Guardian* (30.8.65).

A sample of *'Tomorrow's Weapons: Chemical and Biological'* by Brigadier Genl. (USA-Retd.) J. H. Rothschild. Appendix B: 'some diseases of possible biological warfare interest'—*Name of Disease: Plague; Causative Agent: Pasteurella pestis (a bacterium); Method of Distribution: Natural (Rodents to man via flea); Droplets (man to man); Artificial Distribution: Aerosol, water, food, fomites, insects; Incubation period: 2-6 days; Period of Disability: Untreated—Bubonic 1-2 weeks, Pneumonic and septicemic, usually fatal; Treated—1-2 weeks; Fatality rate: Untreated—Bubonic, 30-90%, Pneumonic and septicemic, usually fatal; Treated: < 10%; Immunization Natural: Yes, Duration and quality uncertain; Immunization Artificial: Yes, short term; Contagiousness: Bubonic—low, Pneumonic—high, Septicemic—rare; Treatment: Is effective (Streptomycin plus sulfadiazine. Chloramphenicol, Tetracycline, Supportive); Remarks: An acute, severe, epidemic disease, generally fatal in absence of treatment.—From *Yeah* No. 10.*

Scientific research at Porton Microbiological Research Establishment succeeded in killing by pneumonic plague Mr. Geoffrey Bacon. Ten per cent of the work carried out there is for the War Office and it is a prohibited place under the Official Secrets Act. Part of the work, according to the *Daily Telegraph* Science Correspondent is 'to take well-known germs such as plague, smallpox and botulinus and then not only to devise ways of growing them in large numbers but to change them. . . . This work is important because thereby the possibilities of biological warfare can be more accurately assessed. The scientists are seeing if the virulent forms can be made still more virulent or more effective.' A board of inquiry has been convened by the War Office which will not be open to the public. . . .—*FREEDOM*, Aug. 18, 1962.

We still have judgement here; that we but teach bloody instructions, which, being taught, return to plague the inventor.—William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*.

For many years, I've been ashamed, mortally ashamed, of having been, even with the best intentions, even at many removes, a murderer in my turn. As time went on, I merely learned that even those who were better than the rest could not keep themselves nowadays from killing or letting others kill, because such is the logic by which they live; and that we can't stir a finger in this world without the risk of bringing death to somebody. Yes, I've been ashamed ever since; I have realized that we all have plague and I have lost my peace. And today I am still trying to find it; still trying to understand all these others and not to be the mortal enemy of anyone. I only know that one must do what one can to cease being plague-stricken, and that's the only way in which we can hope for some peace or, failing that, a decent death. This, and only this, can bring relief to men and, if not save them, at least do them the least harm possible and even sometimes, a little good. So that is why I resolved to have no truck with anything which, directly or indirectly, for good reasons or for bad, brings death to anyone, or justifies others' putting him to death.—*The Plague*, Albert Camus.

Compiled by J.R.

THE REPORT OF the inquiry by Mr. A. E. James came out in a nice blue cover. This is not a tribute to the 'boys in blue' or 'London's finest' but it could well be. Come to that, the booklet might be called after some of HMSO's more practical booklets, 'How to whitewash a police-station'.

The inquiry 'into the circumstances in which it was possible for Detective Sergeant Harold Gordon Challenor of the Metropolitan Police to continue on duty at a time when he appears to have been affected by the onset of mental illness' has the unsatisfactory answer that he was able to continue because of a combination of factors: (1) Difficulty of diagnosing paranoid schizophrenia; (2) The evidence, indicating mental illness, was only known to Mrs. Challenor; (3) The existence of other causes for abnormal behaviour; (4) The lack of medical authority for removing an officer from duty on the ground of sickness.

Mr. A. E. James (who has, since holding the inquiry, been promoted to a High Court Judge) was then no judge, for he ranges far beyond the province of his inquiry and did in short, as the Americans say, a 'snow job'.

Unluckily, or luckily, the reports of the inquiry clashed with the death of Mr. Speaker and speculation about the possibility of a General Election ousted full discussion of this report from the papers. However the *Guardian* says 'the report denies that Challenor's illness went undetected because the lower ranks at West Central Station were anyhow used to seeing irregular acts tolerated or even half encouraged. The evidence, it says, does not support the allegation. One is glad to hear it; one would be still more glad to have it clearly established' and later 'It seems surprising that Mr. James can go on confidently to declare this or that person's evidence to be truthful, untruthful, or exaggerated'. *The Sun* says 'The case of Detective-sergeant Challenor was a wretched business from the beginning. It has done a great deal to create suspicion about the police. It would have been welcome all round if the report of the inquiry conducted by Mr. Arthur James, QC (since appointed a High Court Judge) had managed to remove all these fears and an-

xieties. Unfortunately, the report is unlikely to do this.' *The Sun* goes on to examine the point of view put forward that part of Challenor's behaviour was due to overwork, deafness, and tiredness, and not due to lax discipline at London West-Central station 'which might have encouraged Challenor to think it was all right to break rules—provided he was not found out.' *The Sun* concludes 'Far better that some crooks should escape conviction than anyone should be put in peril on evidence sustained by unlawful means. A civilized society is right to insist that police discipline be rigidly enforced. Once it gives way there is no knowing where abuses will stop. And it is utterly repugnant that the guardians of the law should enforce the law by unlawful means.'

The Sketch, which these days is getting fairly radical (what newspapers will do for circulation!) heads its leader 'This very curious report' and writes 'Very curious. That must be the verdict on the Challenor Report. . . . Three policemen under Challenor's supervision had been jailed for unlawful arrests and faking evidence. And fourteen convictions were quashed. Yet Mr. Justice James says nobody can be "justly criticised". That there was nothing wrong with the "atmosphere" at the police station where it all happened. That the behaviour of Challenor's superiors "is worthy of praise". Mr. Justice James kept in some instances to the terms of reference—and in others he has not hesitated to depart from them. Most interesting are his answers to the questions he was NOT asked. . . . In two of the cases where convictions based on Challenor's evidence were later quashed Mr. Justice James implies that those convictions should not have been quashed. Yet in the crucial "brick-planting affair" he fails to say whether he thinks the evidence was faked or not. (*Sketch's* italics.) Nevertheless he gives prominence to the views of Detective-Superintendent Townsend that the three police constables convicted of faking that evidence were not guilty. Thus Mr. Justice James appears both to go beyond his terms of reference. And to cast doubt on the verdict of a court of law. However right it may be that no blame attaches to the police, this report is unlikely to remove entirely the

public concern about their methods.'

It may be thought odd that one should quote so much from the 'capitalist press' on this case but there have been occasions when one feared the onset of paranoia with regard to the police. (For a slight outbreak see 'Are Policemen Bastards?' *FREEDOM*, 13.3.65, a review of the Penguin 'Challenor case'.) But in this instance one finds support from the most unlikely sources. Space forbids, at the moment, a detailed review of the contents of this blue book but it does seem at one time that Mr. James may have been on the verge of concurring with a poor demented Challenor that the CND had taken the underworld's offer of £1,000 for a non-criminal to frame Challenor.

The usual call from the 'progressive' newspapers is that this case demands the setting up of an Ombudsman. Donald Room, to whom the credit of setting all these events in trail seems to have acted as his own Ombudsman. As Brian Redhead said on BBC's 'A Word in Edgeways' on Sunday, Donald was 'bloody-minded', meaning this as a compliment. Mr. James is in his report full of sly innuendos of the veracity and sincerity of Donald Room, for example (p. 102) 'In his (Room's) statement of 20th November, 1963, he described himself as not being a member of the Committee of One Hundred nor the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, but as an Anarchist and a member of the National Council for Civil Liberties. His evidence and demeanour at the inquiry confirmed this. . . . His personal interest in the demonstration, lay in the cause of one Lambrakis, a Greek, whom he believed to have been murdered.' We must thank Mr. James for his abstention from finding *en passant* as is his style that Lambrakis committed suicide.

But Mr. Justice-to-be James' greatest worry (on p. 105) is 'Despite the facts that Mr. Room was small in stature* and of a gentle disposition, I find it very difficult to accept that a man so fervent in the causes which to him seem just and so hostile to injustice was assaulted as brutally as he described and yet made no complaint immediate thereof.'

JACK ROBINSON.

*He is actually 5' 8"—J.R.

WILSON'S SCAPEGOAT 1965 MODEL

THE LAST FEW months have been a period in which nothing has happened on the political front. There has been considerable disquiet over the 'nation's' financial standing but the only consequence has been inter-Party shadow-boxing about whether this has been the result of Labour mismanagement, or 'the mess left behind by the Tories'. The fact is that it is just part of capitalist economy and no-one can do much about it, so the politicians are playing it quietly. However, when it comes to unofficial strikes, it's another matter! No sooner is Harold Wilson back from holiday in the Scillies than he and Mr. Gunter get together and issue a statement that unofficial strikes have seriously hampered the national economy. Within a few days, the Archbishop of Canterbury has chipped in on the moral wickedness of such activities, and Lord Stoneham has compared workers who

defend their interests in this way as being more grasping than nineteenth century employers!

These attacks on the workers by people who are supposed to represent them have been accompanied by threats of legislation against unofficial strikes.

Now it is obvious, not only to anyone who knows anything about economics, but to anyone who cares to think about it at all, that the economic effect of official strikes, in terms of national production, is negligible. In small-scale disputes any loss of production is always made up in the period immediately after the dispute. On the large scale, in the motor industry, the bellyache about the working days lost to the nation through disputes was exposed for the nonsense it is when Ford's put its workers on short time and demonstrated that the working days just weren't there to be lost. In other words, figures of the

numbers of man-days or pounds lost are completely meaningless because they are either made up some other time or wouldn't have been used anyway.

AVOIDING THE REAL ISSUE

The politicians, Labour leaders, archbishops, etc., appear on the face of it to be plain stupid in concentrating on this issue and blaming all the country's economic troubles on it. Experience suggests, however, that they are not stupid in matters like this but cunning and dangerous. It seems that unofficial strikers are to Wilson and Gunter what Jews were to Hitler. They have nothing at all to do with the economic crisis, but if a politician tells a lie, the bigger it is the more likely it is to be believed. Secondly, the attacks are repeated widely by 'experts' such as MPs, members of the aristocracy, and clergymen, so that everyone believes them. Finally, as befits

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ANARCHY 55

DISCUSSES

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The Fringe

The British Political Fringe by George Thayer. Published by Anthony Blond. London, 30/-.

OUT of courtesy to his case histories George Thayer has refrained from calling his book the British Lunatic Fringe but in his apologia he can write that 'perhaps the first point that should be noted is that the British Political Fringe, so often described as the "lunatic fringe", is by no means inhabited by madmen. The people who take part in fringe group activities may be eccentric, narrow-minded, intolerant, and even mentally unstable, but none that I met would qualify as people dangerous to the public safety.' This may be true but it is one of those meaningless generalisations that can be applied to the entire population of any major town. But for all that, Thayer has walked the wards if not as a sister of mercy then at least as a knowledgeable tourist. He has attempted to approach each dissentient sect on its own terms and this book is free from that air of patronage or bitterness that one would have expected with the odd exception of Thayer's account of Thomas Gerard Healy and the Trotskyists when for a few short pages the author allows a personal spleen to mar his reportage. Thayer argues that the fringe group leaders who are concerned with their organizations' reputations, face the dilemma of balancing the respectable elements with the unwashed and unwieldy characters within the groups, for each group alienates its alter ego. But, states Thayer, Freedom Group and Plaid Cymru have succeeded in this task. When one realizes that Freedom Group and Freedom Press Group (index) are two organizations who represent the complete antipathy for what the other stands for, careful reading of this casually constructed book is obviously called for. There are two tests by which this book can be judged and that is by what we know and what we do not know. When we turn to the chapters on the nationalist organizations, interest immediately wanes for we know little of the personalities involved, and the long lists of who succeeded who and who split from who becomes boring reading. When we can apply our personal knowledge to the personalities recorded we must shudder to think what other banalities Thayer has perpetrated. We are told that the editor of FREEDOM is Jack Robinson while Margaret Hart, the 'blonde and sultry' wife of Brian Hart, edits Anarchist International. This was printed after Stuart Christie had been jailed, so Thayer has been lax in rearranging his notes and he adds heresy to heresy by stating that 'the current theoretical leaders include Rudolph Rocker, Laurens Otter, Alex Comfort, Vernon Richards and Sir Herbert Read (whose knighthood is a source of embarrassment to some anarchists)'. Thayer puts the number of anarchists in Britain at no more than 500 and he divides them into nine groupings. He found that the most difficult group to interview are the Stirnerites who he maintains 'in some cases even refuse to call themselves anarchists' down to the heavy mob within the syndicalist groups who do their own interviewing. Thayer

wipes out the fifth group of revolutionary anarchists who believe in 'throwing bombs and shouting from the visitors' gallery in the House of Commons', by stating that there are no revolutionary anarchists in Britain though 'most revolutionary anarchists consider themselves more syndicalist than anarchist'. If we use Thayer's definition of revolutionary, then one must refer him to page 174 of his own book when, writing of the Committee of 100, he states that they have clouded the reputation of CND because the 'revolutionaries who dominate the Committee' has been the focus of the public eye. He gives as an example the 1963 Aldermaston march when 'a splinter group broke off from the line of march to parade past an RSG'. The facts are that it was anarchists who led that march to the RSG, carrying anarchist banners, and they did not march past the RSG but literally overran the site, despite the large body of police on duty. Again it was the anarchists who opened the whole length of Whitehall to the marchers, despite the disapproval of the CND marshals and the solid cordons of police who tried forcibly to bar their way, and again it was the anarchists who occupied the Cuban Embassy to protest the plight of Cuban political prisoners. One may approve or disapprove of these incidents but these are facts that find no place in Thayer's book.

Again, when writing of the McCreery CDRCU Thayer states that 'most of the Committee who surround McCreery, although not of such a high caste, consider themselves to be middle-class intellectuals. This is particularly true of his literary companion, Arthur H. Evans'. I have known Evans, as a friend, for some years and if this voluble, fanatical, Welsh manual worker has one bete noir it is his hatred of the middle-class intelligentsia. I did Thayer's job for him and cross-checked his facts by writing to Evans for confirmation of this statement, that would have appeared to come personally from Evans, and Evans answer was brief and to the point: 'These middle-class bastards give me a pain in the belly, they all want to ride on the backs of the working class. And how they hate the thought of manual labour! ... Tell your middle-class — of a Thayer that I've never heard of him or the publishers'. McCreery is dead and Evans and his associates are again in the political wilderness, but my point for the foregoing is, that Thayer, in covering his broad canvas, appears to have relied too much on casual conversations with those in office and has failed in his elementary duty of cross-checking his dubious facts. To return again to the anarchist movement, and this obviously is what must be of premier interest to us, one will look in vain for the names of Turner, Ward, Stevenson, or Sansom among this mish-mash of casual misinformation for, for good or ill, no account of the contemporary anarchist movement could be written without a reference to these people while to suggest that the anarchists of the Thoreau/Stirnerite persuasion are almost impossible to interview, is to deny the existence of Sidney Parker and his magazine Minus One, which is exactly what Thayer does. Many of the points that Thayer makes

are true. The syndicalists are concerned with the Spanish situation, both past and present, but not as a 'fixation' but as an historical point of reference. True many people join group activities as a means of escape from making concrete decisions, but by the same token so does many a man vote Liberal.

There is loneliness and a desire for human contact when the only alternative is the pub or the church but, for all Thayer's pity, many believe that they are in some small yet definite way helping to shape the destiny of the human race. In the course of our daily lives every man, woman and child is at some time called upon to make a stand on some particular issue, and is it not just and fitting that we should attempt to anticipate those actions upon which we will be called to make our stand. What we cannot know is whether it is right and just for those who surround us or who follow us, but, whatever our faults and our failings, we are prepared to stand before our fellow-men and be counted. ARTHUR MOYSE.

LETTER

Industrial Initiative

Dear Editor,

A propos Ian Sutherland's remarks. At the Committee of 100's summer school a few weeks ago, one of the most valuable sessions was a discussion of the Factory for Peace in Scotland. It was opened by Sammy Morris, who is an apprentice sheet metal worker in the factory.

There is no doubt that something new is stirring in Glasgow. Revolutions in industrial relations are not made in arm-chairs. They can only be made at work and one is being made now. The eighteen people in the Scottish factory are doing the thing that so many others have talked about in the past.

How much longer will it take some of FREEDOM's contributors to shake off the old Marxist nonsense about class and politics? If some people who are successful in business and the professions feel strongly enough to take direct action against the warfare state, surely the only intelligent response is: 'That's great—more strength to their elbows—and let's have more of them!'

Since when have intelligent people assessed individuals by their labels? To the best of my knowledge we have at least three company directors in the Committee of 100 and associated groups. It is what they do that counts. In fact they do the same kind of things as the rest of us and take the same risks. Their so-called class position (mechanically assessed from abstract criteria) is irrelevant.

May I suggest that we do some more thinking on this subject of starting new-type industrial enterprises? There is no reason why experiments should not be

RELEASE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE POLITICAL PRISONERS!

Demonstration:
3 p.m., September 19th
Belgrave Square

Demonstrators are asked to carry a placard stating a prisoner's name, length of sentence and whether he is Franco's or Salazar's prisoner. They are asked not to bring other banners, flags or posters.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP.
Correspondence: Joe Embleton, 11 Balliol Street, Glasgow, C.3.

Meetings at Horseshoe Bar, Drury Street, Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

MANCHESTER & SALFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. For information contact c/o 4 Ouse St., Weaste, Salford 5, Lancs. Open air meetings Sundays at Old Shambles, Victoria St. at 8 p.m. FREEDOM selling Saturday afternoon, Central Library.

ILFORD LIBERTARIANS. Regular meetings and direct action contact W. E. Rodgers, 4 Sheldon Road, Dagenham, Essex.

MERSEYSIDE FEDERATION. Enquiries: Barbara Renshaw, 4 Clarence Road, Devonshire Park, Birkenhead, Cheshire.

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson. Next meeting September 19. 5 p.m.

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact H. G. Mellor, Merton College, Oxford.

SURREY ANARCHISTS are invited to meetings on the first Thursday of every month at Chris Torrance's (63 North Street, Carshalton, Surrey—please ring three times) and on the 3rd Thursday of every month at M. Dykes, 8 Court Drive, Sutton, Surrey. Both meetings 7.30 p.m.

considered and undertaken wherever there are likely groups of people. Given that the scale of operations remains small there is no limit to the things that might be started.

The question is, of course, whether ideas and principles will stand up to the pressure of the market. That is as tough a test as there is—but since when have we run away from theirs?

Your sincerely,
Cambridge PETER CADOGAN.

LONDON TO PORTON WALK—

SUPPORTERS of the Committee of 100 left Marble Arch on Saturday on an eight day walk to Porton. They are distributing leaflets on the way and holding public meetings. On the first stretch of the journey there were 22 people starting out. The public meeting in Hounslow, organised by the West London Libertarians, drew a large crowd, which was addressed by Jim Huggins, Roger Sandell, John Rety and Douglas Kepper.

A very good photograph and a very inaccurate report appeared in the Sunday Telegraph. On Monday a film crew joined the walkers, whether they were amateur, professional or Scotland Yard is anybody's guess.

J.R.

Wilson's Scapegoat

Continued from page 1

a convenient scapegoat, it is possible to pass laws making it possible to persecute individuals who take direct action in defence of their interests, which will not be felt at all by the mass of right-thinking middle class voters, who probably don't count among their acquaintances anyone who is likely to use the strike weapon. This means it will be possible for whatever politician in power to take what he can call 'energetic action' which will be popular with the middle class electorate, which will win votes, even though it will not make a scrap of difference to the economic situation. Another part of our freedom will have disappeared as part of an electoral stunt.

The latest news, announced by Wilson himself at the TUC meeting, is that, having brandished the big stick, he is now dangling carrots of voluntary co-operation in the wage freeze in front of the workers. He and his power-hungry friends are not to be trusted! It has been suggested that the Wilson Government may fall any day, but with winning slogans on their lips such as 'Keep out the blacks!' and 'Persecute the unofficial strikers!' they may even get back, and we shall be able to enjoy another five years of 'socialism'.

P.H.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

Co-ordinating Secretary: Frank Hirshfield, 4 Albert St., London, N.W.1.

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Public Meetings every Sunday Hyde Park 3 p.m. Correspondence to J. Rety, 10 Gilbert Place, W.C.1.

NOTTING HILL ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary N.H.A.G., Flat 3, 5 Colville House, London, W.11. Meetings 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at above address.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

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bury Avenue, S.W.2 (Streatham Hill, Nr. Station).

3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald & Irene Room's, 148a Fellows Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.

First and third Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. Arthur Uloth's, 30 Arundel Gardens, W.11. (Top bell.)

SOUTHALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Get in touch with Roger Sandell, 58 Burns Avenue, Southall, Middlesex.

PROPOSED GROUPS

WEST KENT LIBERTARIAN ALLIANCE. Anybody interested contact Peter J. Clarke, The George, Frant, Sussex.

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Projected formation of group contact Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex or Miss Jean McLean, 6 Epsom Close, Northolt Park, Middlesex.

NORTH-WEST ESSEX. Close to W. Suffolk, S.E. Cambs. and N.E. Herts. Contact Robert Barltrop, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near Saffron Walden.

HULL & YORKSHIRE (East Riding). Anyone interested in forming anarchist group contact R. A. Baker, 6 The Oval, Chestnut Avenue, Willerby, E. Yorks. Phone: Hull 58543.

SUNDERLAND (Co. Durham). Proposed Anarchist Discussion Group. (Syndicalists welcome) at Geoff. Edwards, 'Side House', St. George's Terrace, Roker, Sunderland, Co. Durham.

LEEDS LIBERTARIAN ALLIANCE. Anybody interested please contact Roy and Frankie Todd at 15 Clarendon Place, Leeds, 2. Telephone 24282.

NEW ZEALAND. Auckland Anarchist Group. Public Meetings every Sunday in Myers Park at 2 p.m.

Letter from a Prisoner

A letter (by a militant comrade in prison at Burgos since 1956) addressed to the Spanish Minister of Information, but also to Spanish political exiles).

It is difficult to do justice to a 5,000-word letter in a brief summary. The contents range wide over matters of Spanish history, the events of the civil war and the following years, and the necessity for reconciliation among Spaniards. Several of the author's writings addressed to the Pope and other personalities, as well as the author's political struggles, are mentioned. He had been imprisoned at the end of the war, and even condemned to death, a sentence which was later commuted. Amnestied in 1943, he again organised political activity, including what he calls 'Peace Guerrillas', which extended over several Spanish provinces. Detained in 1956, condemned to death for the second time in his life, he later saw his sentence commuted to 30 years' imprisonment. He would like to see 'a social organisation where money does not rule and where to each is given according to his need and each in turn gives according to his ability'.

He asks the authorities whether it would not be reasonable to free prisoners in his category, so that a dialogue among Spaniards of good-will could take place about the best way to ensure peace among the factions and a better future for the country. He then humbly addresses himself to Spanish political exiles and, after giving advice as to principles and attitudes, he asks the exiles not to interfere unduly with events within the country insofar as they are not sufficiently in touch with those events; he warns that the possibilities of an amnesty can easily be thwarted by such interference and points out that it is the Catholic Church that is in the best position to intervene on behalf of political prisoners; and he concludes with a further warning that there must be people who are cashing in on money

collected to assist the prisoners, since for decades none of the prisoners have seen any of it.

Kirkdale School

A 'FREE' school where children are treated as reasonable beings and not coerced or brain-washed in any way. There are now 15 children between the ages of 3½-15 years.

The school badly needs help—gardening, decorating, carpentry, etc.—as soon as possible.

Either individually or as a weekend work party, people are invited to come along—can have party in evening and bring sleeping bags for the night if desired.

Members of the LAG/2 are going along on September 25/26. The address is Kirkdale School, 186 Kirkdale, Sydenham, S.E.26 (SYD 0149).

Limited amount of implements are available but those wishing to do carpentry should telephone John and Susie Powlesland so that wood can be purchased beforehand. J.R.

PRESS FUND

WEEKS 34 & 35, SEPT. 4, 1965

Expenses: 26 weeks at £80:

9 weeks at £70:

Income: Sales and Subs.:

£2540

£1952

DEFICIT £588

Belfast: W.G. 5/6; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Nottingham: H.T. £1 1s.; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; Surrey: F.B. 5/-; Manchester: J.H. 1/6; Slough: E.M. 4/6; London, E.C.1: A.M. 3/6; London, E.11: L.R. 10/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Slough: E.C. 9/6; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; California: Los Gatos Picnic 22 Aug. £25 18s.; Ontario: S.L. £1 13s.; London, S.W.11: G.T. £1; Oxford: Anon* 5/-; Chorley: A.R. 3/6; New York: D.W. £6 13s.; Llandysul: H.D. 5/6.

TOTAL £40 8 6

Previously Acknowledged £603 6 0

1965 Total to Date £643 14 6

*Denotes regular contributors.

Gift of book: Falmouth: Anon.

Revolutionary Gossip

'Dreamers, Dynamiters and Demagogues'. Reminiscences by Max Nomad. Waldon Press, New York. 1964. \$5.

MAX NOMAD is known as the author of several books devoted to debunking famous revolutionaries. He is also known as an advocate of 'permanent protest'—the view that a 'just society' will never be achieved and that the struggle between 'haves and have-nots' will go on indefinitely. Both of these activities have been repugnant to many anarchists, who have smarted under the criticisms he has levelled at their heroes and been shocked at the notion that their ideal was a myth.

From what I know of his earlier work, particularly 'Apostles of Revolution', I think that many of his attacks on revolutionary mythology were useful and salutary, and I believe that his advocacy of 'permanent protest' is valid on the plane of the individual versus Society, if not on that where he puts it. The trouble is that Nomad's tendency to rather malicious 'gossip-columnism', and his evident interest in dragging skeletons from out of cupboards, was always a jarring note in his work, and in his later books assumes the form of stating that 'so-and-so was such-and-such' without any evidence other than his mere assertion.

'Dreamers, Dynamiters and Demagogues' (what a penny-dreadful title!) one might have expected to be different, since here Nomad is writing about his own life and would presumably be not so much interested in making a case as in recording what happened to him and those he knew. Unfortunately, his 'gossip-columnism' triumphs and we are presented with a series of snippets which read rather like a cloak-and-dagger 'True Confessions'. I have not heard before of most of the people he mentions, but of those I have, I find his approach more often than not both dubious and distasteful.

One of the odd things about this book is that Nomad hardly ever mentions his brother, Siegfried Nacht, who was once a prominent anarcho-syndicalist and a delegate to the International Anarchist Congress of 1907. One would have thought that here was someone whom he knew intimately and could write about at length, but he seems to prefer to write about those whom he met a few times, or knew only by repute.

If you like historical chit-chat flavoured with a sprinkling of facts, then you may find Nomad's book worth looking at. If you do, don't forget to keep a large packet of salt close at hand.

S. E. Parker.

LETTERS & Controversy

National Anthem . .

Dear Editor,

I wonder how consistent Ian Vine really is. He does not rise for 'God Save the Queen', but does his hat rise when he meets a lady? Does he address a letter to his coal merchant: 'Dear Sirs', when the only dear feature is the coal? Does he write: 'Your sincerely', when he doesn't care a damn about the person he is writing to? If he has a boss does he call him 'Sir'? Life is full of gestures that don't mean a thing, but is it worth while protesting against a symbolic action? I always stand up at the National Anthem although royalty means nothing to me. I'd abolish it but not for the usual reasons; I'd do it to Save the Queen, for of all the prisoners in the land she must have the least unfree life.

Now if Vine can tell us that he keeps protesting against our educational system, our barbarous criminal code, our attitude to homosexuals or colour, or Jews then he is doing something worthwhile.

Most people want to have royalty, so why protest against it? No keeping your seat will abolish it, but hitting out against—say—our glasshouse training for delinquent youth may influence some people to think hard about a social evil. I don't think that Vine should say please when he asks someone to pass the sugar, for the please means as little as doffing your hat to a woman, a gesture to over-compensate for the keeping down of women in a patriarchal society. The sad thing is that women love to see what they call good manners. But maybe Vine, like myself, doesn't wear a hat. Leiston, Suffolk A. S. NEILL. 28.8.65

How many who assert that it is the people's right to make the laws, have sense enough to see that, therefore, it is the people's right to break the laws?

WILLIAM J. ROBINS.

AGAINST RACIALISM . . .

Dear Friends,

We are deeply concerned about the problem of racialism, at the recent outbreaks of violence and the emergence of organisations with racialism as their main object.

The proposed legislation on immigration, introduced by the Labour Government, would appear to encourage the already latent racialism and anti-semitism in this country.

The Peace Movement and associated groups have failed to get to grips with this problem.

We should like all those who share our concern, to write to us as we propose to convene a meeting to discuss and, we hope, take action to combat these evils.

Yours sincerely,

DOUGLAS KEPPEL.

NEIL COLLINS.

124 Kings Cross Road,
London, W.C.1
30.8.65

Dear Comrades,

Having just read R.J.'s article 'A World for Debbie' (FREEDOM, 14.8.65), I feel that some aspects of the article need sceptical examination.

Firstly, R.J. remarks that racial hostility 'didn't appear much in the British Empire until the middle of the 19th century', which seems to exclude the slave trade from Africa to the West Indies and America. Here we had the belief, that black people were inferior as a race, demonstrated in a somewhat hostile manner.

Next R. J. writes that anyone doubting the race hostility of immigrants, which is 'fairly widespread' in his view, 'should have gone into the hairdressers by Notting Hill Gate Station under the management they had about a year ago'. Verification of this point is rather difficult, so R.J. might have told us what we might have found—also this hairdressers is perhaps not evidence of 'fairly widespread' racial hostility. It could be added that enslavement, terrorism, exploitation and murder, are reason enough for racial hostility, on the part of some immigrants in Britain, towards those whose ancestors were responsible for these crimes.

Again, R.J. writes that the belief that racialism is the monopoly of the sexually warped is 'without foundation'. He states that Spain is practically free from racialism, but the Catholic Church there 'cloaks sex in an oppressive morality', when it is the Latin nature of the Spanish people which supports a non-racial approach, not the Catholic Church. As for the 'race-conscious body', the

German SS (something of an understatement), which contained men who 'returned home in the evenings to become exemplary family men' (thus we conclude that an anarchist suggests that 'family men' are never sexually warped), the facts are that many SS posts in Germany were found to be next door to brothels.

Lastly, R.J. considers only 3% of those who feel resentment towards immigrants suffer from 'genuine race prejudice'. The reason, we are told, for the hostility of the great majority of whites is 'almost entirely economic'. Yet the fact is that all surveys of racial prejudice show that sexual reasons for racial hostility are often the basis for racial hostility. Economic reasons there are, but race hate is a passion that cannot be explained in such mundane terms (anyone who has been at the receiving end of racial hatred knows just how deep and all-consuming is the hatred of the racially prejudiced). I have not the statistics of surveys with me but I remember in America, whilst 60% of whites were willing to send their children to racially integrated schools, only 10% would be happy if their children married Negroes.

I believe Lelia Berg has suggested in the *Guardian* that jealousy of the happiness and relaxation of coloured immigrants lies at the bottom of much racial hostility, the whites feeling incapable of enjoying life in the easy-going manner of many contented coloured people. Certainly Latin peoples feel no racial hostility and also live in a relaxed, pleasure-seeking manner.

The answer to Mrs. Goodes, the young housewife who wants somewhere 'safe and pretty and clean for Debbie to grow up' without Jamaican neighbours, is love—she needs to be educated in how to enjoy life, and she and Debbie (and her poor husband) could only benefit from coloured neighbours, who might begin the task of telling Mrs. Goodes how to live. The English will only solve their colour problem when they realize how inferior they are at living happily in comparison with most other people in the world.

Marseilles

30.8.65

J.W.

HELP THE PRESS FUND!

OUT OF THIS WORLD

'Breakaway Threat by Dog-loving Nun' -The Sun

TEA REPLACED COCOA as the official evening drink in English prisons. A prisoner hanged himself in Winson Green jail and another died (or so the coroner said) from injuries received when he fell off a chair while looking out of the cell window at Pentonville. A voice in court shouted 'You must be joking' when the verdict was announced. The dead man's brother claimed that there was a fight in the cell and added, 'They said Louis (the prisoner) was five foot nine inches tall but he was six foot three inches. He could look out of the window without getting on a chair.' Prison officers testified that the man was not given treatment until five hours after he was found injured. The coroner said, 'It is perhaps excusable if I say that the medical care at Pentonville has been slightly unfortunate.' A Dartmoor prisoner-found to have lung cancer after starting a five-year sentence claimed that the Home Office rejected a request by the surgeon who operated on him to set him free. . . .

A LIVERPOOL BUSINESS-MAN has asked the Home Secretary to make an enquiry similar to that in the Evans case, into the case of Mrs. Florence Maybrick who was sentenced to death in 1889 for the murder of her husband by arsenic; she was reprieved and served fifteen years imprisonment. Mr. Frederick Bowman, the business-man, said, 'I am in favour of the death penalty and floggings for violent criminals, but though I realize the vindication of Mrs. Maybrick may give my opponents valuable ammunition, I feel I have a duty to this unhappy lady who unjustly suffered so much.' . . .

ISRAEL GILLEY and Jimmie Drumwright were sentenced to death in the electric chair in Sandford, Florida, for the rape of a twelve-year-old white girl. A white clergyman, who was active in the civil rights movement, was shot in the back and seriously injured in Jackson, Mississippi. An African widow in Durban, South Africa, has been told she cannot continue to live with her married coloured daughter because, according to the Group Areas act, mother and

daughter are of different races and so cannot live in the same area. . . .

A CRY FROM the heart came in *Psychic News*, 'spiritualists and witches should try to understand each other'. *The Red Flag* (the journal of the Fourth International), on the other hand, criticises the Socialist Labour League in the following tones, 'The fantastic degree of dishonesty revealed therein (in a report on the Fourth International) is another manifestation of the total degeneration and anti-proletarian viciousness of the people who constitute the "leadership" of the SLL.' . . .

THE POLICE FEDERATION expressed surprise at the wording of a leaflet explaining the procedure for making complaints against a policeman. They state that they agreed with the Home Secretary about the publication of such a leaflet provided it reminded the public of the policeman's difficult and dangerous job and that people should think twice before complaining. The Police Federation say, 'The Home Secretary agreed to this but to our surprise and deep regret these words have been omitted from the pamphlet'. The Challenger case report was, however, published. . . .

AT LEAST seven people were killed in Imphal, Manipur State, India, when police fired on mob rioting against food shortage. Indian army engaged in hostilities with Pakistan about the ownership of Kashmir. . . .

THE PRESIDENT of the United States signed a series of amendments to the Draft (Conscription) Act which called up unmarried men for military service. There was a rush in Nevada of couples to be married before the draft law came into operation. The United States conducted a low-yield nuclear test at the Nevada proving ground. The level of radio-activity rose in Holy Loch due to discharge from American Polaris submarines. The Ministry of Defence spokesman said there was no danger in eating fish or mussels caught there. As reported in *FREEDOM*, it is reported in the *Daily Mail* that the suspected typhoid

contaminated corned beef has gone into the nation's 'strategic' food stockpiles, the location of which (in Manor Way, Elstree) is being kept secret. Speaking of the same corned beef, Mr. K. Clements, president of the National Federation of Meat Traders, expressed concern at the possibility of the meat being reissued in Britain. 'What I think it would do,' he said, 'is put people off having corned beef for all time. It is all very well for the Ministry to say it is all right—we quite believe it is—but we have to sell it and it is going to be difficult to get people to accept it. . . . We think it would be better for the meat to be sent abroad.' . . .

SIR WILFRED KENT HUGHES, MP, told the Federal Parliament in Canberra that all one had to do to lose one's BO was to stop eating meat. He said later, he had picked up this tip whilst a prisoner of the Japanese. 'Our diet consisted entirely of rice. We were packed in a hell ship, but there was not the slightest trace of BO.' He told MPs that Vietcong guerrillas, themselves rice-eaters, 'can smell a meat eater thirty or fifty yards away.' . . .

MR. JOHNSON stated, 'The foreign policy of this country is going to be: "do unto others as you would have them do unto you".' Mr. Rusk, his Secretary of State, said, 'There is a comment going around the Communist world these days that Peking is prepared to fight to the last Vietnamese.' An American military spokesman said that for the first time US aircraft had attacked a North Vietnamese dam and hydro-electric installation eighty miles from Hanoi. Some military theorists, reports the *Guardian*, claim that the bombing of North Vietnam's canals and dams would bring home the war to the Hanoi regime in plain terms—mainly the danger to the rice crop. . . .

RESIDENTS of Warminster, Wilts., worried by unidentified flying objects, were told by an officer of the UFO association not to worry. 'There is no doubt that if any harm was to come to large numbers of people, it would have happened before now.' JOHN QUIXOTE.

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Strikes Employers Don't Mind

THERE HAS BEEN a great deal written in the national press recently about the strikes in the motor industry. Often these reports have been charged with a note of hysteria and many opinions have been aired as to how to deal with these situations. As *Tribune* says: 'Indeed the newspapers are full of the usual harebrained schemes and the nation's emotions are being charged with the usual middle-class cant about strikers "holding the nation to ransom".'

One of these strikes, at the Fisher & Ludlow plant at Llanelli, started when a foreman, Evan Morgan, who was unqualified as a craftsman, gave a technical order to a skilled man, who refused to obey. This skilled man, Terence Williams, a welder, was suspended and his mates stopped work in sympathy.

The foreman is what is called a 'dilutee', a term which arose during the war, when under the 1939 Relaxation of Existing Customs Agreement made because of the shortage of skilled labour, an unskilled man was allowed to work as a tradesman. After the war this relaxation was discontinued. In the case of the foreman, even though

he had done a trade course in the Navy, he was not accepted as a craftsman. At one time he was a shop steward, but was later made a supervisor.

CRAFT UNION SET-UP

Obviously this whole thing stems from the craft set-up of union organisation and disputes of this nature should not happen. On the other hand, men are bound to feel a lot of dissatisfaction when they think that their foreman does not know his trade. It was right that the men took action in defence of their workmate, but one wonders why something was not done before to prevent this occurrence. Both the union and the management knew that this could happen at any time, but nothing was done to prevent it. If the welder had accepted the foreman's order, he would probably have been suspended by the Amalgamated Engineering Union, but as it was, the management did it.

One striker said 'We never thought it would really happen,' while an AEU official said 'Our timing was lousy,' which is a silly statement to make. It was, no doubt, a bad time, but they did not have any choice and had to take action. After all, it was the management who called the tune and they must have known that some dispute would occur if this foreman gave a technical order. It seems to me that they either wanted a strike or were not really worried if one took place, in fact offers to sort out the foreman's trade qualifications in the Navy were flatly turned down by the management.

The British Motor Corporation might have lost a number of vehicles through recent disputes at their plants, but nevertheless this has, to a certain extent, probably prevented short time working. An inquiry is now taking place at Llanelli. The foreman, at his own request, is taking his holiday, and the welder returns to work with the other strikers. Who knows, the craft stupidity may now be ironed out.

EMPLOYERS DIDN'T REALLY MIND

Another strike which has played into the hands of the employers, is one at Silcock and Collings, who are car transporters and deliverers for Fords. Here 300 drivers stopped work when one of their shop stewards, Frank Murray, was sacked after being convicted of dangerous driving. He pleaded not guilty to the charge and even though he had no previous driving convictions, and before he had decided to appeal, was sacked by the management.

This was a handy strike for Fords, who were on short time working. At Halewood, near Liverpool, where the dispute occurred, Fords decided, in view of the fact that they say that there is no available parking space, to stop all production until September 7, providing the strikers would return to work by then. Shop stewards dispute the fact that there is no parking space and drivers at another depot of the company at Langley, Bucks., have come out in sympathy. However, the management only threatens them all with the sack.

When the Ministry of Labour stepped in to have talks with the union involved, the Transport and General Workers' Union, representatives from Silcock and Collings were invited but did not turn up. A union organiser said, 'We have been leaning over backwards to get this strike settled. The firm is very stubborn. We want Murray reinstated and given a job in the depot or suspended pending talks

on the result of his court appeal.'

On August 27, Mr. Sheppard of the Ministry of Labour went dashing off from Manchester to Dagenham to have talks with the management of Silcock and Collings. Fords had already set the date for resumption of production at Halewood on September 7 and the dispute has been settled just in time. Mr. Murray will be suspended on basic pay of £16 2s. a week while the procedure, which forms part of the union-management agreement, is followed.

This procedure was ignored by the firm when it suited them, but there were no attacks on Silcock and Collings in the national press for breaking an agreement, not even from the so-called 'liberal' section. If the workers break agreements, or go against procedure, they are called 'wildcats' and 'wreckers', but of course it is a different matter when the employers do it. Not that workers should be surprised at this, least of all those who are active in the trade union movement.

Drivers for Silcock and Collings have recently suffered cuts in wages due to the fact that British Railways have been transporting Ford cars. 'Labour relations' have been described as 'bloody 'orrible' or even non-existent. The drivers have felt that their jobs depended too much on Fords. One has said that for 'months we have been delivering to dealers who went potty whenever we appeared. We knew what was coming and you can't tell me that Fords didn't. Frank (the sacked man) is just an excuse to take the pressure off for a bit.'

Ford shop stewards at Halewood confirm this view in a leaflet: 'The workers in the plant are aware that schedules not intended until the October/November period have already rolled off the production lines, the reason being that some 15 weeks prior to the annual shutdown, this plant had obviously greatly overproduced. During this period men were actually disciplined for failing to comply with the excessive 15 hours per week overtime demands, in addition to Saturdays, which in the main, were readily adhered to. Now we are callously confronted with short time.'

NEEDED—BETTER LIAISON BETWEEN WORKERS

In both of these disputes, workers have acted in solidarity with a victimised mate. At Llanelli, the need for a dispute should never have arisen, for this rule that an unskilled worker should not give a technical order to a craftsman should have been rescinded long ago. The drivers at Halewood were defending the job of Frank Murray, who as they say was used as an 'excuse'. Many managements resent the extent of shop steward organisation within their factories and become worried over it. They often say that their 'right to manage' is being threatened. By defending their present status and trying to improve conditions in industry, the workers' organisations at shop-floor level do threaten the management's so-called 'right', but they have no 'rights' in this direction at all and this fact must be brought home to the workers.

Ford shop stewards might have known that they were over-producing, but why didn't they get together with the drivers and decide on some form of action? It is strength, built on liaison between workers involved in an industry, that is needed, so that different workers can get together and sort out common problems. Managements' 'right to manage' must be consciously attacked and the making of decisions must be taken over, more and more, by the men themselves. It is they who are affected, so every effort should be made to gain more control in the running of the industry in which they work.

P.T.

Freedom For Workers' Control

SEPTEMBER 11 1965 Vol. 26 No. 28

We'll Stand for Anything but We Won't Take Standing

ON SEPTEMBER 8 Hendon busmen have threatened a work-to-rule as a protest against the planned reduction in buses plying for hire. The figures for the new schedules would bring about a reduction of 67 to 56 buses each day and 57 to 46 for Saturdays while Sundays would see a cut of 25% in buses from Hendon garage.

The Hendon busmen have threatened a work-to-rule, a ban on voluntary overtime and a refusal to carry standing passengers which means that once again a small minority of working men are forced to battle for a lost cause. London Transport Executive are determined to go ahead with their programme of escalating reductions in the number of buses on the roads yet the people who will be affected, the travelling public, will by the very nature of the beast do nothing, for, understandably, only the most militantly dedicated would be prepared to stand in the grey rain of a winter's morning and give the thumbs up to a bus that refuses to allow him to stand as a protest that the LTE are doing a Beeching on the public.

For Hendon are fighting a losing battle and the LTE are so confident of the outcome that they have stated that if the Hendon busmen refuse to work voluntary overtime there will be additional cuts in service to cover the loss of overtime workings. When the LTE demanded that the fresh phase of 600 cut duties should be put into operation this coming month, the TGWU bled a little and then won another pyrrhic victory by 'forcing' the LTE to let each garage make its own predetermined cuts in service according to its staff position.

NO REFERENCE TO RANK AND FILE

There is a story, apocryphal so the facts and figures are unimportant, that that late self-lover 'Jimmy' Thomas, the clownish boss of the railwaymen's union, was due to meet the railway directors. The directors, as part of the overall Tory policy of the time, had demanded that the railwaymen's miserable wage should be cut by ten shillings a week as part of the National Sacrifice and 'Jimmy' was there to fight the brass faced bastards on behalf of his union members. 'Jimmy' Thomas went into that board room and fought and fought while the railwaymen stood in small whispering groups upon the stones outside the building. Finally, 'Jimmy' came bounding out and, throwing his arms godwards, cried in his cultivated cockney accent, 'We've won, brothers, we've won, it's victory for us.' The men gave a ragged cheer and a smiling 'Jimmy' shouted to his union members 'We've beaten them, brothers. They're not going to cut your wages by ten bob a week, only seven and sixpence.' This, it would appear, is the same type of immolation that the TGWU love to practise, the right to reduce staff and the right to sack staff and the right to come to agreements with the employer without reference from the rank and file.

With the approach of October, the long overdue 40-hour-week should come into operation and the ending of the compulsory working of a voluntary rest day each month and that will mean that the LTE will be able to eliminate 30,000 man-duties per month from the rota of the fleet as a whole. The protest regarding the union's part in this deal is that it is no part of a union's function to show the employer where or how to reduce staff for, no matter how honest the employer's case for staff reduction, once the union agrees to it the rank and file are left with no other alternative than to fight both employer and official union should they wish to fight the decision.

To be honest, the cuts in bus services will affect the working busmen little. Services are now strained to the limit on a number of routes and with the shortage of staff ever mounting there is little fear of dismissal for lack of work. In point of fact, the only people who will suffer on the worker's side will be the overtime kings and frankly one can have little sympathy with their money-hungry wailings. But for the ordinary working bus conductor, and he must bear the brunt of these cuts, already working all day with maximum loads of human flesh, it simply means that he will leave more people behind at each stop vainly watching for the next bus.

BATTLE IS YOURS

It is the community as a whole that will suffer and it will accept these cuts because they are an unorganised floating mass of men and women who rightly regard a bus as a method of getting them from A to B in the quickest and most comfortable way, and not a short trip to the gallows glorious for a hazy principle. There is no powerful consumers' group for the bus travellers, who not only can scream loud enough, but possess the nuisance value that would be the only thing to make the LTE take notice so these people will in the main stand silently at the bus-deserted bus stops.

For the Underground there is the valid excuse that they are conditioned by physical limitations in running more trains, but there is no such excuse for those who run our bus transport service. Until the community demand, with a loud and angry voice, that the bus services be run as a public service they are doomed to the bitterness of an inefficient and indifferent service run with no other purpose in mind than profit. To interrupt the flow of buses at different times of the day, because of an alleged fall in demand, can only emanate from some pedantic bureaucratic mind, for by the same reasoning one could close shops at various times during the day, close down the water supply, the flushing of sewers and the electrical supply in the early hours of the morning with the falacious argument that there is little demand at those hours. A public service should function day and night, irrespective of demand, for it is the ever open access to a smooth and regularly flowing service that differentiates it in the final analysis from the industrial spiv looking for a quick turnover for his money. Herbert Morrison's London Passenger Transport Board came into existence to combat the very evils that are now held to be official policy. The LPTB came into existence to provide Londoners with a bus service that would cater to the travelling minorities in opposition to the pirate bus owners who fed on the cream of the travelling public to the exclusion of the thinly populated areas. That was the fight then and this is the fight now. It is the same battle but now the enemy is Government-backed.

This is what the busmen of Hendon are taking militant action over and it is not their battle but yours.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

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Contact Column

Glasgow. Glasgow Anarchist Group are having a 'bus run to Edinburgh on week-end September 25-27 as a get-together for libertarians and sympathisers. Cost per head 50/- including Saturday lunch; bed and breakfast Saturday-Sunday. Twelve seats still available. Raffles in aid of food parcels, etc. for Stuart Christie. Contact R. Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1, if interested.

Hull—Accommodation. Painter-teacher, man, wants lock-up living/working quarters (reasonable rent) from beginning October. Unfurnished if possible. Central or other busy district preferred. Box 12.

Volunteers wanted this weekend to help with final decorating and clearing-up in new libertarian day-school, opening Sept. 14. Phone SYD 0149.

New Poster
War Waste
Want Politics!
Why?

3½d. each plus postage. Orders to Bill Stücker, c/o 17a Maxwell Road, London, S.W.6.

Poetry with jazz and folk song interruptions. The Ship Inn, The Quay, Gloucester. Friday, Sept. 10 at 7.30 p.m. Local poets and folksingers welcome. CNVA.

Individualists! Anyone interested in individualist anarchism is invited to a meeting on Sunday, September 12 at 8 p.m. at the Basement Flat, 10 Churton Street (off Vauxhall Bridge Road), Victoria, S.W.1.

New Zealand Federation of Anarchists. First Annual Congress, December 26 to January 6. Enquiries Box 5455, Auckland CI, NZ.

Vietnam Posters. 'Who Loses in Vietnam—Always the People'. 4d. each. 30/- per 100. Orders to Freedom Press.

Room Wanted—London. Shift worker would like room with mod. cons. South, or West Kensington. Box 11.

Leicester Accommodation. Unfurnished cheap weather-proof accommodation wanted by mature (?) student, wife and two children. Any proposals (sharing, etc.) considered. Mike Radford, 90 Westfield, Harlow, Essex.

London Accommodation. Couple and son (two years) seek 2/3 unfurnished rooms, North London. Box 8.

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L.A.G. Two. Barn/Studio/Basement wanted to house meeting place, library, etc. for LAG II. Suggestions, ideas, details and details of rent required to J. Rety, 10 Gilbert Place, W.C.1.

If you wish to make contact let us know.