

NO CHANGE IN RHODESIA

THE POLICE have made it an offence in the Salisbury area to publish in any form any information about restricted persons or restricted areas. As far as the public prints and radio are concerned, therefore, Mr. J. Nkomo, the Rev. N. S., the former prime minister Mr. G. T., and several hundred other people are henceforth unpersons.—*The Observer*.

'The talks must continue' say the British Government and the opposition; yet what is the point when it is obvious that the Rhodesian Government will not give way?

In the opinion of this writer, Mr. Wilson has already sold out the African majority, just by carrying on talking to a person such as Ian Smith who is obviously not interested in giving anything away at all. Rhodesia in the meantime prepares for a Unilateral Declaration of Independence that must surely come, unless of course Wilson does give in.

When one discusses this problem with ordinary people (that is people who get their opinions from the press and television) they all say that the African majority cannot rule themselves, so Wilson cannot be blamed and neither can Smith.

The Congo is pointed to as an example of the Africans ruling themselves and chaos ensuing. Yet, to this writer's knowledge, the chaos in the Congo was caused through outside interference. If the Belgian capitalists had not backed Katanga against Lumumba, Lumumba would probably still be alive and be the prime minister of the Congo. Whether the African is fit or not to govern himself is not at issue here. He is not going to govern himself in Rhodesia any more than he does in Ghana or Malawi. The African is going to BE governed BY OTHERS. He is going to do the work, and others are going to reap the benefit, whether the government is pink or brown, so let us forget that argument.

THE REAL BUSINESS

The real business is not about whether the Africans are ready to rule themselves, but whether the African politicians are ready to carry on in the same way that Smith and his pinkys do today. From my own observations I should say that it most certainly would. For Smith has imprisoned the opposition, and banished whatever little liberty there ever was from Rhodesia. He has got into power using the old trick of warning one section of the population how bad it would be

if another took over. Isn't this what Nkruma is doing in Ghana and Banda in Malawi?

The whole point is, however, that there is no one African politician in Rhodesia whom everyone will obey (apart from the odd hundred or two trouble-makers who would be in prison or under house arrest) and this is why it's admitted that the Africans cannot rule themselves, and Wilson and Smith must carry on their little game. The ordinary folk of Rhodesia must be kept in their place. Her Majesty's Government has a quarrel with Smith about HOW, that's all.

THE COMMONWEALTH

After all, we must not see the great commonwealth broken up must we? That great commonwealth in which some people are regarded as more common than others. That great multi-racial commonwealth in which, strangely enough, you are much more likely to be robbed and starved if you are of the wrong race. The supporters of Mr. Smith use as their argument the fact that the democracy that they have slowly built up will be destroyed; a democracy where you have the vote if you're clever enough (to vote the right way, and in the nick if you're not).

British business is interested in Rhodesia. Interested in keeping the status quo, and this is why they are still talking. Neither side is considering selling the African majority, for they are not considering them at all. They have other fish to fry. There's no need for Lord Salisbury to panic, both Mr. Wilson and Mr. Smith have HIS interests at heart.

THE SAME COIN

In the end the issue is quite clear. There are colonial masters who say what they think and do what they say. There are ex imperialists (now disguised as democrats) who don't say what they think and don't do what they say; and there are the people of Africa being exploited by both, whose lot will never change unless they take their future in their own hands.

The fascist and the liberal are the two sides of the same thing. They want to eat the same meal, ONLY THE WAY THEY DO IT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE, but the difference is only for the self-satisfied liberals who are not doing the suffering; for the subjugated African the truth is that 'to change the master is not to be free'.

JAFSIE.

YCND Annual Conference

THE RIVALRY for predominance at this year's YCND Annual Conference held at Mahatma Gandhi Hall on the weekend October 30-31, was exclusively between the 'Anarchist wing' and the 'Communist wing' of YCND, the 'Labour Party wing' being almost totally stifled by the disillusionment resulting from one year of 'Con-

servative' Government. Apart from the miscellaneous trivia and private axes 'for the grinding of', that threaten to drag any peace conference into the mire of total irrelevance, the conference did contain one or two signposts of hope.

Watford YCND came to the startling conclusion, endorsed by conference, 'that the Labour defence policy was no different than that of the conservatives'.

Southall, a totally anarchist group (tut-tut), passed a resolution applauding non-alignment, with special reference to Vietnam, and deprecating the 'worker's bomb' and the dormancy of the CND wing of the Labour Party; a more specific motion on the 'worker's bomb' coming from Northolt Anarchists' YCND group (!) was also passed.

Southall, and Eltham YCND, passed a motion taking the campaign's activities into the factories; in the case of Southall, to the extent of, 'at least, token industrial action against nuclear weapons'.

Some discontent was expressed with the 'conservatives' of the peace movement who seem to live only for their Annual Easter Outing and who think

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ANARCHY 57

WHAT IS THE LAW?

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THE KING HILL Hostel for the homeless, or the 'Halfway House' as it is often called, is situated in West Malling, near Maidstone in Kent. Living there are about 43 mothers and over 100 children. The Hostel itself somewhat resembles a concentration camp. The families live in long flimsy huts sharing washing facilities and baths between 2 families. They cook on an old-fashioned coal stove. There is no gas, and no electric points. They are bound by a ridiculous set of rules, a copy of which a wife has to sign upon entrance. No intoxicants, no animals, and worst of all—no men. This rule states 'No accommodation is provided for men'. If this rule is broken, it means eviction for the whole family. Another rule states that accommodation is provided for 3 months only. After that they are evicted whether they have found somewhere else or not. In the latter case their children are taken away from them. Uniformed staff inspect whenever they like. Sometimes at 7 a.m. without bothering to knock.

On May 5, Stan Daniels, his wife and 4 children, were evicted from their home in Bromley. After threats that their children would be taken from them—'being in need of proper care and attention'—they were forced to move to King Hill. When their 3 months had expired they had been unable to find anywhere else. Mrs. Daniels did not move out, Stan moved in. On August 31 the KCC tried to evict them, but failed after women and children blocked the entrance to the Hostel with dustbins.

After this first success, 13 other husbands moved in. On October 4 the KCC obtained an interim injunction enabling them to use force to separate the men from their wives, if still there after midday on October 8. On October 9 families and supporters held a demonstration in Maidstone to protest about the evictions. Thousands of leaflets published by Kent Solidarity were distributed. On October 23 a public meeting was held at the Hostel where the families presented a charter demanding better conditions. Also a fancy dress party was held for the children who were given presents. This was almost broken up by the police. They tried violently to grab the megaphone from Jim Radford, who was getting the children into line. This was prevented. The Inspector then referred to the families as scum.

THE 'THREE TUNS' ENQUIRY

AN ARTICLE which I wrote for the Bristol University magazine '65' caused a nine-day wonder some months back, when the national press pounced on it and headlined the 'allegations' that hemp had been planted on people arrested during a raid on Bristol's 'Three Tuns' public house in St. George's Road. Only FREEDOM reprinted it in full without the appropriate distortions. The publicity upset George Twist, our Chief Constable, who demanded substantiation or a retraction and apology. As a result of this the National Council for Civil Liberties was contacted, and with their most helpful assistance statements from people, arrested were obtained and presented to the Chief Constable with a formal complaint.

This resulted in an enquiry conducted by two officers from the Staffordshire force. After considerable delay this report has completed its passage through the tortuous channels of officialdom and come to rest on Mr. Twist's desk. In a letter handed to me on October 27 he informed me that 'the independent investigation into your allegations against the Bristol Police regarding the "Three Tuns" raid in September 1964 have been thoroughly and independently investigated in accordance with the terms of section 49 of the Police Act 1964' (sic). On the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions he finds the allegations 'entirely unsubstantiated' and proposes to take no further action on the matter. My long standing request to be allowed to see a copy of the report is not mentioned, and none of the specific points are in any way referred to.

Life being WHAT IT IS...

Angry men and women tried to overturn his car, and in his haste to escape he shut a little boy in the car door. The Press were then cleared from the grounds, one photographer got his film confiscated. The police eventually left unharmed.

On October 25, several families and about 50 supporters from the Bromley Socialist Action Group, Kent Solidarity, and Dartford/Bexley Anarchists attended a meeting in Erith addressed by the Rt. Hon. R. H. S. Crossman, Minister of Housing, who, after repeated questions concerning the Hostel, refused to answer. After consistent heckling and a brief scuffle at the door when stewards attempted to eject a man who had been distributing leaflets, a rather stunned Minister left the meeting. On November 1, four men were due to appear at the Strand High Court

Two Quotes

His Lordship:

His Lordship was satisfied that, although this was something to be regretted and something which presented grave human problems, nevertheless, life being what it was and the difficulties being what they were in relation to housing today, the plaintiffs really had no other alternative but to insist upon that rule.

★

A defendant:

'We cannot turn our backs on our wives under these conditions when they really need us. We have respect for the law but we cannot turn our backs on them.'

charged with contempt. They were Stan Daniels, Roy Mills, Denis Sales and Brian Lomas. Stan did not appear as his wife was in court at Maidstone for overstaying her time at the Hostel. This case was deferred. The judge was quite satisfied that they were in contempt although pretty strong evidence was produced. He made them all sign an undertaking saying that they would not go to the Hostel except between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and secondly in a case of emergency such as a sick wife or child they would first go to a Police Station and go to the Hostel accompanied by a policeman.

On November 4, once again several families and various supporters attended a meeting in Erith this time addressed by Crossman's assistant, Bob Mellish. Most of us were refused admission. About half way through, one militant youth went to a side door and managed to open it from the inside. We tried to push our way in but were stopped by police and stewards. After three successive tries I managed to squeeze my way in. The meeting then started to get out of hand and eventually Mellish stood up and said that he had prepared a statement for the families, and would address them outside after the meeting. After cries of 'Why not inside so the voters can hear?' he got up and walked out. He then addressed the families and told them that this was nothing to do with housing but in fact came under welfare which is the Minister of Health. However he had personally seen the Minister, and he assured them that something would be done. He agreed that the recent judge's decision was completely 'inhuman'.

On November 5, Stan Daniels appeared in court. The case was over in about ten minutes and Stan was made to accept the undertaking. The Judge was then handed a letter from Brian Lomas and Roy Mills, saying that they could not accept the undertaking. He called them to the front and asked them if they fully understood the implications of this letter, and did they know that he could now send them to prison. They said they did, and assured him that they knew what they were doing. After saying something about going to the Crown Office and arranging a hearing he told them that he didn't want to hear any more about it, and told them to go away. They have now gone back to the Hostel.

At last it looks like there is a ray of hope for these people. If we keep the kettle boiling and keep hammering the authorities these unfortunate people will eventually be able to live in peace and not constantly worrying whether they'll have a roof over their head tomorrow or not.

PHIL REDMAN.

King Hill Fighting Fund

Defendants have been refused legal aid. Money to be sent to: Dr. Don Barrister, 27 Meadow Walk, Wilmington, near Dartford.

See page 2 for 'Letter to His Lordship'

IAN VINE.

Attempted Murder in Fleet Street

AT 5 P.M. on Friday, October 29, 72 workers at Exchange Telegraph (EXTEL) were informed that their services would no longer be required after December 31. Extel had arbitrarily decided to close down its parliamentary and home news services.

This is the *Star-Chronicle* MURDER all over again, the difference is merely one of numbers of workers involved, but to individual workers concerned the result is the same—the SACK.

Before anyone goes into tears about Extel having its back to the wall and running at a loss for years, the facts are, Extel is doing very nicely, it is closely linked with Glyn Mills the bankers. Last year it earned record profits with a dividend raise of approx. 20 to 25%.

The major part of Extel business is supplying racing news to betting shops and the City 'ticker' service. Racing is a money-making big business, for all concerned (other than the punters). The City 'ticker' service speaks for itself so profit-wise Extel have no worries.

What Exchange Telegraph are doing, in fact, is cutting out the FINANCIAL DEADWOOD. A few years ago it closed its overseas offices to concentrate on its home service.

The only consideration of the company is to make more money (do we expect any different?); the question of providing a public service doesn't arise. As the *Guardian* stated on 1.11.65: 'They are the proprietors of a news agency, and have to remember that they are providing a public service. That must at times lead them to modify strictly commercial calculations.'

By 5 p.m. on October 29, strong protests had been made both by broadcast and publishing against the closure. On Monday, November 1, the workers concerned decided to set up a Defence Committee and

embark upon a nation-wide campaign to prevent the proposed closure. An amendment calling for immediate strike action was suspended at this stage for consideration if necessary at a future date. Within 24 hours the first official union delegation marched into the Extel boardroom for the first belated consultation. And 24 hours later leaders of the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation (PKTF) demanded from the management an explanation and urged that steps should be taken to stop the shut-down.

Mr. Granville Eastwood, general secretary of the PKTF, issued this statement afterwards:

'There was a valuable exchange of views and it was agreed between the Federation representatives and the Company that everything should be done to prevent a cessation of the General Homes and Parliamentary News Services although it was acknowledged that financial obstacles were considerable. It was agreed that any action would need to be taken quickly and arrangements have been made for representatives of the PKTF to see the Newspaper Proprietors Association and the President of the Board of Trade on Friday of this week.'

On November 2, a letter was sent by the Defence Committee to George Brown pointing out the obvious dangers—the danger of restricted channels for the dissemination of news, the danger of sheer commercial self-interest. The letter calls for a thorough investigation if necessary and closes with the statement, 'Whatever is brought to light by such a study would be of benefit to the national interest and not least to that of 72 members of Exchange Telegraph staff now under notice of dismissal after years of service ranging up to half a century.'

On November 3, a letter was sent to the Minister of Labour deploring retrograde management technique of no consultation whatsoever. The letter ends, 'We would add that we have brought the matter to the attention of our unions through the

constitutional channels, and that the management has belatedly agreed to after-the-event discussions.'

Mr. Douglas Jay, President of the Board of Trade, does not think that the closure of Exchange Telegraph services is an appropriate case for the Monopolies Commission but is making further enquiries to see how far the facilities available to the public will be affected.

To date numerous messages of sympathy and support have been received from various sections of the trade union movement, from Government information circles, from MPs and from other areas. Messages of support are heartening; messages of sympathy frighten me, being sorry doesn't cost a light, in fact it can be an excuse for doing nothing.

On Thursday, November 11, the Extel Defence Committee is calling a mass meeting of all Fleet Street chapels at the Scottish Corporation Hall, Fetter Lane, at 6 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to put the case for keeping the Extel services in being and to call for support for the actions being taken now and that may be taken in the future.

In the last couple of years or so there have been many closures in the printing industry with printworkers being sacked. Printing houses have either amalgamated, left London, or have claimed to have gone broke. Extel puts forward none of these reasons for the closure—they just want to make a bigger profit irrespective.

Printworkers cannot accept this, there can be a possible solution. The National Press pay more for the service Extel provide, plus Extel subsidising from their lucrative revenue from racing, plus the 'City' coughing up more from their Stock Exchange transactions.

We are always being told we must work for the good of the nation, here is a chance for Extel to come forth as a shining beacon of patriotism. 'News' for the benefit of all.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

YCND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Continued from page 1

only in terms of exhibitionism and empty protest rather than real communication and education; and Northolt carried a resolution advocating more emphasis on 'constructive Peace action projects', whether or not this will remain a mere 'paper resolution' remains to be seen.

Efforts were made to turn the YCND towards the Committee of 100, but these were resisted, in my view, rightly, as a lot of 'fringe' support would be lost in this way, and a 'fringe' can be encouraged to greater militancy in time.

A valiant effort, with which I sympathised, was made by Harpenden YCND to turn YCND totally pacifist, but again, and for similar reasons, this was defeated, and again probably rightly so; but it is an encouraging sign.

YCND also, thankfully, resisted several attempts to impose membership; it seems that 'Party cards' are not 'in', at least, not at the moment.

A motion welcoming the new Ministry of Disarmament was remitted, thus another irrelevant 'red herring' was recognised for the 'stinking fish' that it is.

The general trend was towards local action rather than centralised action; though successful attempts were made to emphasise the need for unity in the Peace movement, which might annoy some of the more 'purist' elements in the Anarchist movement.

A resolution on peace research from Maidstone was remitted (though passed on a straw vote); it is to be sincerely hoped that this line of thought is not completely forgotten, for the fruits of real work in this field could be of considerable value.

JIM HUGGON.

FREEDOM For Workers' Control

NOVEMBER 13 1965 Vol. 26 No. 35

PRESSURE GROUP OR A MOVEMENT?

TRADE UNIONS in this country have always been reformist organisations without any revolutionary programme. They have worked within the framework of capitalism, gaining wage increases and winning better working conditions for their members. In fact, they performed the job they were created for, safeguarding the interests of and winning improvements for working people.

When one looks at them today, it often seems that they are now doing just the opposite of this. Nowadays the union leaders are so tied to the political wing, especially now that it is in power, that it is the 'national' i.e. employers' interests that are put first and those of the union members come a badly placed second. Even with the increase in profits, the unions are failing to get a reasonable share of these and even as reformist unions, they are failing their members.

To combat this sort of thing, workers have got together and set up their own organisation. These unofficial groupings in industries have come under attack, not only from the employers, but also from the union leaderships. They have received widespread coverage in the national press, the portworkers, powerworkers and exhibition workers, being examples of this.

A HEALTHY SIGN

As Anarchists, we are glad to see these groupings functioning, for they are a healthy sign. There are, of course, official channels for members to use to put forward their own ideas and policies, and according to union constitutions, it is the member who makes policy, but an increasing number of union members are seeing that this gets them nowhere and so the unofficial groupings are being formed.

Having gone this far, what are the aims of such a body? Obviously it will put forward some sort of programme which it feels will have the support of the workers in that industry, and by so doing, it will act as a pressure group upon their own union leaders. This is inevitable, but the function of the un-

official grouping should be to go beyond that of being a pressure group. Is it formed to try to change union officials and leaders, to utilise the official union channels to gain certain policies, to support official policies, to try to prevent any compromises during negotiations, or to try to build a rank and file movement within the industry? I feel the latter should be the prime activity.

If rank and file movements can be formed in industries, then they inevitably exert pressure on union leaders, and so a movement should be aimed for that is strong enough to by-pass this leadership. In my own industry, that of building, we have an unofficial grouping made up of labourers, carpenters, plumbers, etc. This, the London Joint Sites Committee, has done tremendous work and during this year has achieved two major victories, one the preventing of the sackings of known militants on the Sunley's site in Horseferry Road and the other, the recent victory over Turrioffs on the Barbican job. This is the sort of thing that can be done if only stewards and other workers get together.

Surely, by now, we have seen the uselessness of voting for this or that union leader or official. You cannot even do this in the Transport and General Workers' Union where all officials are appointed. It is not only useless, but we are also harming ourselves for we are giving power, which should remain in our hands, to someone else.

Our own works organisation can link up with other factories in the industry to form a strong movement which can gain the demands put forward by the rank and file. By having control on this level, active participation in these struggles will raise the consciousness of workers to further demands which go beyond wages and conditions.

If workers can build up, run and control their own organisations and not hand over power to union bureaucrats, then this is a major step forward, in that the structure of these organisations surely reflects how industry should be run.

P.T.

LETTER

Admirable Idea, but . . .

Dear Comrades,

Once again on the back page of FREEDOM I notice advocacy of the admirable idea that striking busmen should take their buses out but not collect fares. There is, however, a possibility that such action, effective though it would prove, could lead to disaster. I am thinking of the legal position. If busmen take out a bus and carry passengers for nothing, then it seems to me they would be running an illegal bus service—and that the insurers would take no responsibility in the case of, say, an accident involving a passenger—or another motor vehicle—thus shifting the responsibility firmly onto the

shoulders of the men manning the bus—this is the prime legal liability of such action, and as damages could run into thousands, a busman could be financially crippled for life if a successful action was brought against him by an injured party. Again, trespass and larceny charges could presumably be brought against busmen taking out buses with the intention of flouting the terms of their contract.

This as I see it is the legal situation, though it may be that P.T. and Moyses have already had thoughts on the matter.

Fraternally yours,

Chris Torrance.

Carshalton

30.10.65

. . . they couldn't all be Sacked!

I have made some enquiries into the legal points raised by Chris Torrance in his letter.

London Transport have been granted, by Parliament, the sole right to provide, for payment of a fare, a bus service and any attempt by other persons to do the same would constitute a breach of this right and would therefore be illegal. It follows that if the busmen took the buses out, but did not collect fares, they would not be providing an illegal service and London Transport would have no legal redress.

The busmen, however, would be in breach of their contract with London Transport, in that they would not be

'performing their duties properly'. In this they could be disciplined, even to the extent of being sacked, but if this was a widespread campaign, they would hardly all be sacked, for London Transport would then be placed in a ridiculous position. In the event of the so-called 'ring-leaders' being sacked, such action, no doubt, would be followed by sympathy support from other busmen in the country and possibly from other workers.

With regard to liability in the case of an accident, because there would be no question of the busmen's action being illegal, London Transport, and through them their insurers, would be liable for any claims.

P.T.

Contact Column

Accommodation. Anarchist couple with little daughter are seeking accommodation anywhere in London/South England also in return for housework, gardening, etc. Fauser, 242 Amesbury Avenue, Streatham, S.W.2.

Study Group. Blue Star Movement. Effective speaking, self-expression, creative communication. All welcome. Silver donation. 7.0-9.30 p.m. Mondays, November 1, 15, 22, 29 at 13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W.2.

Projects for Peace Conference. Birmingham, November 13. 'La Boheme', Aston Street, 2.30 p.m.-8 p.m. Speakers Tom McAlpine, Phillip Seed and others. Films, discussion and working groups.

Concord Theatre Group. 'George Washington Crossing the Delaware' and 'In the Country of the Blind'. King Georges Hall, Great Russell Street, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, November 11, 12, 13 at 8 p.m.

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

If you wish to make contact let us know.