

# Making Life More Difficult

THE SEASON of mass escapism now over, the emptiness and normality of the New Year brings us back to earth with a thud. Although our Government is not so cynical as to instruct a soldier to dress up as Santa Claus and distribute presents to peasant children he'd only too cheerfully burn with napalm any other day of the year, our leaders brand of cynicism, though milder, is rational in that they deduce that if they can get the masses to spend heavily at Christmas, then a society for whom affluence is the goal, will ignore a small rise in the cost of living.

On January 16 bus and rail fares in London will go up, while on the same date British Rail are also putting their increases into operation, though the announcements of these impending rises were not made concurrently, the London increases being announced in conjunction with the then Minister of Transport Tom Fraser's plans to tackle London's traffic problem.

The British Rail increases are only a weary repetition of what has gone before; people will continue to pay more and more for a service which grows worse and worse and which is already divorced from its function of serving a community's needs. Many people have learned by personal experience what buffet tea is like, and only the lazy and ignorant, and the unfortunately old for whom walking is difficult, need drink it.

What has angered many people and mystified them into the bargain is what possible connection fare increases have with bringing some sense of order to the traffic chaos. The obvious sensible arrangement would have been to have brought fares down to something like their 1950 level. (This of course is only an arbitrary date but it goes without saying that many people would look back to that time quite wistfully now.) Motorists would be encouraged to travel to work by tube or bus and also, with cheaper fares, buses might well be full to capacity nearly all the time, and even with the cost of fuel, the LT could be making a profit after the first year of the plan, instead of having to make a timid approach to the Government for a subsidy some time next year.

Motorists would be kept off the city's main arteries and, as a 'Panorama' programme showed, 59 people on a bus travel on an uncongested road as compared with those same people driving their own cars, often only one person to each car. This indeed is another 'plan' that's planned against those who can't help using the facilities provided; in fact another example of phoney 'Socialism' after fifteen years of reactionary rule by the dear old Tories.

## ANARCHY 59

### The White Problem

NOW ON SALE

ANARCHY is Published by Freedom Press at 2s. on the first Saturday of every month

WRITING FOR a paper with limited space and unlimited ideas, one hesitates to plunge into the whirlpools of polemic especially so soon after mentioning this matter of the Radical Alliance and the Hull election. However, Mr. Peter Cadogan, the Secretary of the National Committee of 100, has really provoked this by his utterances in the current 'communications' sheet of the National Committee.

In the communication he writes under the heading 'Hull', 'If the point of a demonstration is to make a case in the way that cannot be dismissed (as a meeting or a press statement can be dismissed) then if some other way of making the same case offers itself the opportunity is not to be missed. Seen in this way a certain kind of electoral activity is part of the vocabulary of direct action. It all depends on how it is done. Our business is to get at public opinion and build the independent peace movement at one and the same time. Richard Gott is campaigning on a straight peace in Vietnam platform as distinct from the compromising, vote-catching, image-worried party hacks he is up against.' Peter Cadogan then quotes a report from Keith Burdon (of Radical Alliance) on their prospects in Hull and concludes, 'Offers of help to the Agent, John Gittings, 106 Goldhurst Terrace, London, N.W.6. Tel.: MAI 2716.'

Ironically enough this piece of confused thinking is accompanied in the same envelope as a policy statement of the Committee of 100, one item of which is 'WE HAVE BROKEN WITH PARTY POLITICS (caps in original). We believe in the day-to-day mutual accountability of individuals and groups. We have ceased to believe in dependence upon representatives and officials. We are, in consequence, opposed to the present trend towards the centralization of government.'

One may take the shifty but tenable position that the Radical Alliance is not a party, and one can assume that the answer to 'When is a party not a party?' is a statistical one like the answer to 'How many sheep make a flock?' One may also take the position that Radical Alliance is purely a political experiment and Mr. Richard Gott (DV) is quite unlikely to be elected, and moreover, in this unlikely event, he will be a good member in opposition to Mr. Wilson's 'baddies'; as my old mother used to say 'Opportunity is a fine thing'; furthermore, as Donald Room said once in a debate with, and *apropos* of, the SPGB 'Every where was a virgin once'.

If the candidacy at Hull is purely symbolic, why not have a symbolic candidate? A crocodile or a horse, for example, but nothing can hide the impression that Richard Gott is

# VOTING AS DIRECT ACTION?

a real Parliamentary candidate and the Radical Alliance (miniature though it is) is a real political party, if one may use the term.

Peter Cadogan appears to take up the position that the Hull election is an opportunity of putting forward the propaganda views shared both by the Radical Alliance and the Committee of 100. Incidentally the final line of the 'communication' about offers of help contradicts the policy idea of 'decentralization' for apparently the Hull electorate is being wooed from N.W.6.

It is quite true that the Hull bye-election highlights the issue of Vietnam and Richard Gott's intervention makes possible a defeat for the Labour candidate, and following on this the possibility of Harold Wilson's reconsideration of his position with a smaller majority or no majority at all.

But all this has no relevance to the issues to which the Committee of 100 was dedicated. As Thoreau said, 'All voting is a sort of gaming, like chequers or back-gammon, with a slight moral tinge to it, a playing with right and wrong, with moral questions; and betting naturally accompanies it.' Obviously Peter Cadogan is willing to put the Committee of 100's shirt on an outsider, but the left-at-the-post bookies of *Tribune* and *The Week* have backed the TU horse (which is of quite another colour).

The performance of the *Tribune* and *The Week* in the equine field remind one more of the circus (in the words of James Maxton) than of the racecourse, for they appear not only to be riding two horses at once, but two going in different directions. Does Peter Cadogan seek to emulate their feat on two horses—Election and Direct Action?

Peter Cadogan's claim 'that a certain kind of electoral activity is part of the vocabulary of direct action' is correct if it refers to 'voting with your feet' and in a limited kind of way is correct if it means making that hallmark of illiteracy, a cross, on your ballot paper but after that direct action your candidate is on his own; either into the obscurity of a failed candidate or into the obscurity of our successful member who goes on his own sweet way or the way laid out for him by his party.

The only word in anarchist vocabulary for the procedure at Hull is a four-letter one. The vote is a surrender of the ability to take direct action. It may be that Vietnam is not a situation where we (the people of Britain) can take direct action but all one can do at Hull is to get in on the act. Without minimizing the issues of the Vietnam war what has Hull to do with Vietnam? The lack of interest of the British population in the Vietnam war is painfully obvious, otherwise why does Harold Wilson get away with it?

It is quite true that Richard Gott is in a strong position to blackmail Mr. Wilson on the Vietnam issue but the Opposition and the Liberals have a sinister loyalty to this Government especially when it is, as it so often is, in favour of the *status quo*.

It is to be hoped that Peter Cadogan is thinking aloud for himself only and that these 'communications' do not represent the policy of the Committee of 100. If they do represent the policy of the Committee of 100, it is to be hoped that they will think again, even if they only revise their policy statement which now stands contradicted by their secretary.

To conclude with a better writer and thinker on voting—H. D. Thoreau in *Resistance to Civil Government*, 'The characters of the voters (in an election) is not staked. I cast my vote, perchance, as I think right; but I am not vitally concerned that right should prevail. I am willing to leave it to the majority. Its obligation, therefore, never exceeds that of expediency. Even voting for the right is doing nothing for it. It is only expressing to men feebly your desire that it should prevail. A wise man will not leave the right to the mercy of chance, nor wish it to prevail through the power of the majority. There is but little virtue in the action of masses of men. When the majority shall at length vote for the abolition of slavery, it will be because they are indifferent to slavery, or because there is but little slavery left to be abolished by their vote. They will then be the only slaves. Only his vote can hasten the abolition of slavery who asserts his own freedom by his vote.'

JACK ROBINSON.

# Down with 'The People'

THE PEOPLE NEWSPAPER is published in London every Sunday and has a circulation of several millions. It has a mainly working class readership and therefore must concern itself with the problems of the working class. It makes an effort to be a 'crusading' paper and has learnt that as long as its 'tone' is righteous, the meaning and the purpose can safely be authoritarian and spiteful. Last Sunday's issue contained a scurrilous attack in typical fashion on Roy Mills, one of the husbands, who cannot stay with his family at King Hill Hostel. (See attached statement by the Friends of King Hill.)

If you wish to stroll down the sewers, the contents of the *People* of this Sunday may interest you. On the front page there is a touching concern for the privacy (or private parts) of Prince Charles. 'Why don't they lay off him?' asks the righteous headline. The story contains all the dirt, of course, that is safe for the *People* to print. No such caution governed Mr. Hugh Farmer whose filthy attack on the privacy of a working class woman appears next to it. This woman escaped from a prison hospital so that her child may be born free. This was four years ago and since then she managed to bring up her son until dear Mr. Farmer, earning a crust, tracked her down. Said this jubilant journalist: 'For nearly five years Jessie Brown has been on the run from gaol...'

bringing up a son who has learned to fear a knock at the door. Yesterday I found her.' And he informed the local CID without payment. Said the local CID man: 'As far as we are concerned Mrs. Brown is still wanted. Our men will be going to the house to interview her. If she is fit she will certainly be taken into custody.' From the reluctant tone of this man, he would rather not be involved, unless his hand is forced by this nasty article.

Back to the Crusades! On an inside page there is an article and photograph

which could easily be of the King Hill Hostel. It is in fact the story of another concentration camp. Next to the heading '1966—But we let our own human outcasts live like this' there is a caption: 'Britain 1966... as washing drips overhead in the bare depressing living room of Barnsley's Model Lodging-house, Mrs. Elisabeth Palmer sits stirring a favourite mixture of the inmates, Dead Man's Dumplings'. Good thing she did not live in the equally depressing King Hill Hostel, because to correct the balance that was chosen for an attack by the slimy-sweet schizophrenic editor of the *People*. This article by Pat Elston is an example of suggesting falsehoods by the omission of truths.

R.

## Inaccuracies & Distortions

MR. ROY MILLS, the 34-year-old father of six who spent 11 days for contempt of court last November for defying a Kent County Council rule at the hostel for homeless families at West Malling, announced that he would be taking legal action for defamation of character against the Sunday newspaper *The People*, which has published an article purporting to show that his present difficulties were the result of his own irresponsibility.

A spokesman for the Friends of King Hill, the organisation campaigning on behalf of the hostel's residents, announced their full support for Mr. Mills in his action. 'The article contains serious inaccuracies and distortions. We regard it as a vicious attempt to discredit the struggle of the homeless families against inhuman regulations by smearing one individual,' said Jim Radford chairman of the group.





# On Strike at Woolf's

NEARLY 600 WORKERS, at the R. Woolf & Co. rubber factory at Southall, have now been on strike for five weeks. They are mostly Indian and Pakistani immigrants who stopped work following the suspension of a worker by the management with no prior consultation with the shop stewards. Other issues, such as a closed shop and increases for lower paid workers, are also involved.

Their union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, has made the dispute official, but so far has not paid out any strike pay. A union official has said that only those whose dues were fully paid up at the start of the strike will be given benefit while the rest, probably the majority of those involved, will get nothing. It seems that many of the workers at Woolf's have been dissatisfied with the TGWU and have let their contributions lapse. This dissatisfaction stems from an earlier dispute, when militants were sacked and the union gave no support, so it is no wonder that these workers have become disillusioned. These immigrant workers have done a terrific job of union organisation at Woolf's. It has taken them two years to achieve it and before this, there has been no effective organisation there for nearly 30 years.

## BREAKING JOB ORGANISATION

We know that the unions are part and parcel of the capitalist system

## Contact Column

**The Secular League.** Britain's only secular/freethought society, wants association with all progressives. Aims: Equality for all, internationalism—united from the bottom—no pontiffs or political careerists welcome. S.A.E. for principles and objects: J. A. Millar, 139 Elm Road, Section 4, New Malden, Surrey.

**Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!** 'Festival of Fools' closes January 9 at New Merlin's Cave, Margery Street, W.C.1. LCS Singers' Club. Club members admission 5/-. Non-members 7/6. January 8 and 9, 7.30 p.m.

**Badges.** CND symbol in red and black with inscription 'Make Love not War'. For sale at 5/- a dozen or £1 for 50 post free (or 10d. each post free) in aid of 'Resistance'. Orders to 'Badges', 3a Highgate Road, London, N.W.5.

**Children's Party.** For the children at King Hill Hostel. January 8 (provisional). Toys, gifts and lots of help needed. Peggy Denny, 27 Fairfield Road, S.E.7 (GRE 2669).

**Contacts Needed.** Long Beach, California, USA area. Get in touch with Charles Levy, P.O. Box 743, Long Beach, California, USA.

**Accommodation.** Couple wishing to 'legalise' quite soon; must find accommodation before doing so for selves and 2½-year-old daughter as soon as possible. Cheap rent perhaps in return for some work in house, garden, etc. Town or country; anything, anywhere considered. Please contact Stella A. Fauser, 242 Amesbury Avenue, London, S.W.2.

**New Poster**  
War Waste Want Why?  
Politics!  
3½d. each plus postage. Orders to Bill Sticker, c/o 17a Maxwell Road, London, S.W.6.

**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.

and that they are a means of disciplining the rank and file. There are, nevertheless, many employers who will do their utmost to prevent any union organisation or recognition in their factories. Woolf's are one of these and they seem determined to break up the job organisation and to try to force the men back on their terms by making the dispute a long one.

So far, the strikers have stuck it out. They have been given credit at shops and cafés owned by Indians and Pakistanis and their landlords have forgone the rent. What other support has been forthcoming? A 'round-the-clock' picket line has

been fairly successful in persuading lorry drivers not to enter the works, but members of other unions are still working and are said to be doing the work of the men in dispute. This is a fine state of affairs, about which the TGWU is doing nothing, not that they would achieve very much, for the obvious way to win this strike is by the efforts of the men themselves. They have achieved much in the past by these means and can do the same now.

Regardless of what the union officials are doing, all work at Woolf's must stop and financial support must be got from other factories, building sites, etc., in the area. These strikers cannot stay out for ever and they must have support from other workers. So far, this has come mainly from the immigrant population of Southall, but now it must be extended. Those on strike have done a marvellous job of union organisation, where others, in the past, have failed. If these gains are not to be lost, support will be needed from other workers, no matter what the colour of their skin may be or from what country they originate.

P.T.

## BARRETT, NO MORE MEMBERS, PLEASE!

THE DEVLIN REPORT on the Docks recommended that the 'blue union', the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers, be given a place on the Docks Modernisation Committee, with other unions. In accepting this proposal, the leadership of the 'blue union' agreed to stop the recruiting of workers at ports outside London. The Transport and General Workers' Union stipulated this as a condition of allowing the NASD on to the Modernisation Committee.

While Mr. Barrett, the General Secretary of NASD, was willing to pay this price in return for 'respectability', members in the northern ports did not like it at all. Union branches in Hull, Liverpool and Manchester have, in fact, increased their number of members, no doubt gaining some from the TGWU who were dissatisfied. The subscriptions of these new members have been sent back by the union officials at the London headquarters, over 100 to Hull and 200 to the Manchester branches. NASD branches in the North are taking legal action against their National Executive Committee. They say that not only is this ban on recruiting contrary to their union rule book, but also that they fear that it will lead to eventual control by the TGWU in these ports.

**TOP LEVEL DEAL**  
Those parties who are interested in implementing the report of the Devlin Committee see the NASD union as an obstacle to this and the place on the modernisation committee was granted in order to placate the union's executive committee. If the northern members of the NASD continue recruiting, it could hinder the introduction of the measures

proposed in the report of the Devlin Committee.

Of course this whole deal has been done at top level without consulting those it really concerns. These dockers are being denied the right to choose to which union they wish to belong. Even the Devlin Report admitted that the TGWU did not represent the dockers and that the rank and file thought that the union leadership sided with the employers. If the TGWU were not militant enough, the NASD were too militant for Devlin's liking. Now that they are achieving recognition, the executive committee of the NASD is rapidly changing its tune and consultation of its members, which might have been all right prior to the Devlin Report, has now gone by the board.

Workers, obviously, want to join the union which they think will offer the better deal, even to the extent of leaving one to join another. Many dockers are fed up with both the NASD and the TGWU and are joining the small industrial National Union of Portworkers. They are entitled to their right of choice and nothing should interfere with this. Whatever union the dockers may belong to, they now face a critical period. There is no doubt that both the Government and the employers, including those outside the actual industry, see the dockers as the party whose interests are to be sacrificed for an 'efficient modernised' industry. What they mean, in fact, is that the dockers must work harder in order to serve the employers, who need this industry to import and export their goods.

P.T.

## Communication from National Committee of the CNT

BY MEANS OF THE Commission of Relations of the CNT in Great Britain a note has been published about which we feel obliged to explain, without the least desire to carry on a controversy, but merely to put facts and people in the right perspective.

It is no secret to anyone that the National Committee of the CNT in Spain maintains neither official nor officious relations with the exiled confederation.

Now then, the National Committee neither had, nor has any intention of keeping itself confined within any frontiers, because it is under an obligation to diffuse its messages, communications and appeals throughout the earth in order to establish lines of communication with all the militants of the CNT whether or not they are in agreement with the judgement of the organization in Spain.

In fulfilment of this duty it calls to the struggle as many militants who wish

to take part, nominates delegations in all countries where it finds comrades prepared to be in direct contact with the National Committee in a task in conjunction with the CNT in Spain. To this effect it has established its overseas delegations and sub-delegations which support the agreement of the interior and who act under the direction of the National Committee.

If from England, reproductions of circulars, documents and communications have been sent out it is clear that this is not done on a single personal responsibility, nor will it in future, for those who work in this way do it with the support of the CNT of the interior through the functions of the National Committee.

Once more we should like to make clear that in Spain there is no 'Pro-ASO' National Committee, but only a National Committee quite simply, which fulfils the agreements of the Organization.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE,  
End of November, 1965

# Freedom For Workers' Control

JANUARY 8 1966 Vol 27 No 1

## Hobson's Choice

IT DOES APPEAR that Fairfield's Shipyard has been saved from 'Carey Street' at a price. Industrialists outside the industry are jubilant, 'selling the trade union rule book' is something they have always wanted. The reason (for public consumption) is the elimination of so-called restrictive practices, higher productivity, higher profits, higher wages, all for the good of the country. Cutting through all this drooling sentiment, it means tearing down the workers' defences, offering peanuts in terms of higher wages, rationalisation of labour force, forcing a labour surplus.

Industrialists inside the shipbuilding industry would prefer to see Fairfield's die as one more competitor out of the way. Plus the fact they could plunder the surplus skilled labour leaving the rest to go to the wall.

The choice facing Fairfield workers is limited to say the least. Living in the capitalist jungle, as we do, it's the sack or forcing the best out of a bad deal, added to which, Scottish workers have to contend with England's favourite export to Scotland—'unemployment'.

Who are the sugar daddies putting up the cash? The Government, private enterprise and trade unions. If all goes well, Fairfield's could prove to be a very profitable plum. With the unions having money invested, they will more than play ball. Lord Thompson is no slouch, his eye is always to the main chance, and his attitude to trade unions is well known. He is the man who advocated a British version of the infamous American Taft Hartley Act. The proposed set up is his cup of tea.

And if the worst comes to the worst, the workers can always take the can back, the excuse is ready made, 'They refused to sell their souls'.

### UNEMPLOYMENT MUST NOT DECREASE

AN INTERESTING PIECE of information has come from the Mecca of capitalism. One of Johnson's economic advisers is concerned about the unemployment figures in the States. Eight per cent of Negroes out of work and one per cent of all Americans unemployed for four months or more. To show concern at these figures is out of order, according to the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. He stated that any further Government steps to bring fuller employment contain inflationary risks for the economy. Now you know, the land of plenty is not for all, least of all for those on Skid road.

### GEORGE BROWN GIVEN THUMBS DOWN

THE NATIONAL UNION of Bank Employees is going ahead with its pay claim and to hell with the Prices and Incomes Board. This heavenly body recommended that bank staffs should receive no further salary increases until early 1967. The union is demanding £1,250 to £1,750 a year for the cashiers. Also bank workers should reach the top of the basic scale by the age of 25 instead as now at 31. We realise, of course, that Bankers are doing rough that's why the NUBE wage demand is so modest, we can settle in our sleep, the demand will not send the Bankers skint even if they pay out in full.

### WOT! NO BREAD?

THE BAKERS' UNION are waiting not too optimistically for the findings of the PIB on their claim for an interim rise of £1 a week.

Bakery workers were literally stabbed in the back by the Government through George Brown and the PIB. It is fairly obvious that bakery workers would have forced the increase from the employers but the Government came to the rescue (of the employers).

The wage they are demanding is £15 a week minimum — big deal — especially when you think of the money the Government pours down the drain every day. There is no doubt about it this

present Government is the finest Tory Government ever to hold office.

If the PIB do not come across with the £1 Lent will start early this year.

### DEFEAT FOR 'LABOUR ONLY'

A HIGH COURT judge refused to stop industrial action being taken by three officials of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers.

The NUBTW officials were trying to outlaw a 'Labour only' contractor, by forcing the main contractor on the site to terminate its contract with the 'labour only' outfit. NUBTW wants all its bricklayers to be employed directly by the main contractor.

This is an important struggle to win, it is the Barbican dispute over again. Building workers have been fighting 'labour only' contractors for years, and will continue to fight until they are run off the sites. This struggle will not be won in a court of law, only by direct action on the site, and it is heartening to note action is increasing.

### PAPER TIGER CRUMBLES

THE TUC HAS accepted the idea of compulsory notification of wage claims and price increases.

Suggested penalties for failing to notify, £50. Five hundred pounds for deliberately supplying false information with fines for men who go on strike while their claim is being considered by the PIB. The idea is for the Government to get an enabling Bill through Parliament, so that, if the voluntary system proves a complete failure, compulsory notification can be enforced.

During the TUC debate, George Woodcock found himself with unusual bed-fellows, the left wing unions who urged the TUC to repudiate compulsory notification. The General Council voted 23 to 12 supporting George Brown. George Woodcock argued that legislation to enforce an incomes policy should be rejected now and for ever. He would prefer the TUC to wield the big stick.

Lambeth Trades Council has been suspended by the TUC for organising a mass demonstration and lobby to protest against compulsory wage vetting. Brother, if the TUC says black is white, then black is white, but thank goodness the rank and file disagree, let's hope this type of disagreement becomes stronger, we have nothing left to lose but our bloody wages.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

### PRESS FUND

## We Made It!

WEEK 52, DECEMBER 31, 1965:  
Expenses: 26 weeks at £70:  
26 weeks at £80: £3900  
Income: Sales and Subs.: £2918

DEFICIT £982

Roehampton: J.P. 4/-; Portsmouth: E.M. 18/-; London, W.10: M.M. 14/-; London: L.A.G. 2 £8 0s. 6d.; Northern Ireland: J.T. £2; Reading: Anarchist Group 3/-; Northolt: Anarchist Group\* 2/6; Minnesota: M.A. 10/6; Nottingham: R.G. 17/-; Alberta: N.M. 12/6; Wellington, New Zealand: J.M. 5/-; London, W.C.1: M.G. 10/-; California: E.V. 16/-; Hendon: M.G. 4/-; Glasgow: A.J. 3/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.\* £1; Birmingham: A.L. 18/-; Scarborough: J.F. 3/6; Harlow: K.N. 1/6.

TOTAL £18 15 6  
Previously Acknowledged: £972 17 7  
1965 Total £991 13 1

\*Denotes Regular Contributor.

## Many Thanks!