

A Spring Election?

OVER THE LAST few weeks there has been a great deal of comment in the newspapers on the prospect of an early General Election. Ever since the Labour Party came to power, with its very small majority, there has been considerable speculation as to the date when Mr. Wilson would decide 'to go to the country'.

The Government seems to have started an election campaign, with its published plans for leasehold and rates reform. The Tories, for their part, have been busy publishing their Party statements on different matters. What we are being subjected to, in fact, is an election campaign before the real thing, and the Government's compulsory 'early warning' wages bill will be a good vote catcher, especially those of the middle class.

From what the public opinion pollsters say, this Spring would be a favourable time for Mr. Wilson to call an election and of course that small majority must be taken into consideration. Obviously from a financial viewpoint, neither the Tories nor the Liberals wanted an election to be too close to the previous one, but now I should think that the Tories will not be so generous with pairings and will want to outvote the Government. With the present programme of legislation, Wilson would always be too close to possible defeat. The general state of the economy will also be taken into consideration. Uncertainty on the political side of things is never very good for business for managements like to know where they stand.

ANTI-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

On the whole, I should say it was a good time for Mr. Wilson to choose for a General Election and if he does,

what are we, as Anarchists, going to do during the election campaign? There are a number of alternatives to carrying out an anti-election campaign. It has been suggested that we put up a real or imaginary or imprisoned candidate, paying the £150 deposit, with the assurance that if elected he would not enter Parliament. This would show the definite support one had gained.

On the other hand, the money used for a deposit could be used to produce a lot more propaganda, and if one concentrated on a particular constituency, it could have considerable effect. Whatever means are used, obviously groups must start now, working out what they intend to do, even if they intend to ignore the election altogether.

The Labour Government has carried out many of the things we said they would do in our previous anti-election campaign, particularly in respect of wages and trade union affairs. This point, I think, should be pressed home, but at the same time, our campaign should not be based just on an anti-government platform and should put forward Anarchism as a positive alternative to the present authoritarian society. Refraining from voting is not enough, for people who do only this are usually just apathetic. A person who knows why he votes for a particular party is much more likely to see Anarchism as a possible viable alternative.

A General Election period is a good time to put across our ideas to a much larger section of the community. There is far more social and political interest shown at a time like this and so it is an opportune moment to show not only the futility of voting, but that Anarchism is a 'positive do-it-yourself alternative'.

BILL STICKER.

Rhodesian Fiasco

RHODESIA HAS ALWAYS been close to S. Africa, no more so than in her political outlook toward apartheid. Whilst she mildly criticised S. African policies in the past, it was always with tongue in cheek. In fact all Rhodesian governments to date have had a similar attitude towards Africans in varying forms of apartheid, possibly the milder outlook could be termed at best, patronising.

When Rhodesia declared UDI just over three months ago it was expected that she would receive at the very least the blessing of the S. African Government. The Prime Minister of S. Africa Dr. Verwoerd is nobody's fool, he has been playing a 'wait and see' game. Europeans in Rhodesia may be blood brothers of S. Africa but long term business and trade is thicker than blood, Verwoerd awaited developments.

When Britain organised economic sanctions against Rhodesia including oil, Verwoerd adopted a neutral position and declared he would trade with Rhodesia 'on a normal basis'. As is the wont of all political parties to exploit any situation, climb on any bandwagon, to gain votes, the Opposition party in S. Africa, the United Party, proved no exception. Sir de Villiers Graaf, leader of the United Party, knowing the feelings of the majority of the European electorate in S. Africa strongly advocated support and recognition of the Smith regime, to the embarrassment of Verwoerd's Government. Obviously some of Verwoerd's ministers strongly supported Graaf's position but dare not say so.

Verwoerd must play it this way, emotionally S. Africa is not very popular with the rest of the world. (In fact I believe that most governments couldn't care less what policies are practised in S. Africa provided there is money to be made

and their investments are safe, and at the moment there is no reason to believe otherwise.) Therefore if S. Africa came out strongly in favour of the Smith regime her own oil supplies might be in jeopardy.

'BAT BOTH WAYS'

Verwoerd gave his blessing to the scheme of 'Oil gifts for Rhodesia' in an attempt to 'bat both ways'. This scheme has caught on, so much so that Wilson had the South African Ambassador on the carpet for half an hour. There has been no report on what transpired at the meeting but one can hazard a guess at the gist of the conversation. Verwoerd has a general election on March 30, he is expected to increase his majority, but no government can take chances, therefore, to keep in with the electorate he must express some support for the Smith regime. On the other hand S. Africa's whole future could be at stake if she got fully involved in the Rhodesian crisis. This, without a shadow of doubt, is what the Wilson-Dr. Carel de Wet (S. African Ambassador) meeting was all about. Wilson being a politician himself no doubt appreciates the position, but he is in a spot himself, the left wing of the Labour Party want results and so do the African states, therefore he also is trying to bat both ways.

The situation in Rhodesia is as vague as ever it was. We were led to believe that big business was strongly opposed to UDI. There is no obvious evidence at the moment of them exercising any pressure against Smith. There was also talk about a shadow cabinet opposed to UDI and ready to challenge Smith. Selwyn Lloyd appears to have come back with very little. When asked if he thought Mr. Smith would have to renounce independence before negotiations could start, he said there should be 'no preconditions'

before negotiations started.

PAY-TRIOTS

Don Perry (*Sunday Express*, 20.2.66) reports that forbidden trade links with Rhodesia are being maintained, tobacco, engineering and motor accessory firms are striving to retain close contact with Rhodesian traders. It would appear that it is not a question of how long it will take for sanctions to strangle Rhodesia, but how long business can resist trading with Rhodesia. If money making interferes with patriotism then pack in patriotism, this is their motto.

It will be interesting to see what happens at the Rhodesian tobacco sales which start next month. The official US policy is that 'in the United States national interest they should comply with the British ban'—I wonder?

The whole Rhodesian affair is one of ducking and diving and 'tongue in cheek diplomacy'. In the meantime the Africans in Rhodesia continue to be humiliated and suppressed, mere pawns in the game of international finance and power politics.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

ANARCHY 61

OUT NEXT WEEK

discusses

CREATIVE VANDALISM

ANARCHY is Published by Freedom Press at 2s.

on the first Saturday of every month

AS IT BECAME INCREASINGLY obvious that Johnson was going to resume bombing North Vietnam, the peace movement rose up in arms. The New York Workshop in Nonviolence planned to trigger the protest activities with a 24-hour vigil at the 'Swords and Plowshares' monument in front of the UN. At the termination of the vigil, a wreath was to be placed on the steps of the US Mission to the UN. Thereupon a second demonstration would begin wherein civil disobedience would be offered in Times Square.

The announcement of the resumed bombing was made early Monday morning January 31, so the vigil began at 5 p.m. as scheduled. After a few hours it was agreed to transform the stationary vigil into a picket line in a desperate attempt to generate a bit of heat. The temperature was hovering in the neighbourhood of 20° and it might be mentioned that Mr. G usually reserves some of His coldest gusts for the East River. (He hates the UN.) The picketing reverted to a standing vigil the next morning, and remained so until 5 p.m. Hot coffee and tea were provided, although many of the vigilers fasted for the 24-hour period. The primary source of comfort and/or surcease, however, was the warmth of two rooms which had been rented at a nearby hotel—an absolute masterpiece of forethought.

There were no leaflets distributed, but black armbands with the single word VIETNAM were worn. The signs were limited to either of two slogans: 'We Mourn the Dead in Vietnam' or 'They Shall Beat Their Swords into Plowshares'. By way of comic relief I would have suggested two others, one asking, 'What did Washington say when he crossed the Delaware?' Then a second, right next to it, answering, 'Fa un cazza da Fried!' The reference here is to the famous painting which depicts George Washington being rowed across the Delaware River to attack the British at

Trenton on Christmas Eve. Surrounded by ice floes, he is standing in the bow with an inordinately stern expression on his face. It may well be that his concern is not confined solely to the cold, but may dwell occasionally on the fact that Martha didn't have more money when he married her in view of the alarming wartime rise in the price of slaves. Be that as it may, the world's oldest Italian joke is based on this painting, and the punch line, delivered in the crudest Sicilian dialect, could be translated roughly as: 'I'm freezing my balls off'.

At the termination of the vigil, the wreath was laid at the entrance to the US Mission to the UN. Its ribbon bore only the words, 'In Grief'. Technically this concluded that particular demonstration. It had been planned that anyone interested in offering, observing, or supporting a sit-down in Times Square could gather one block away for that purpose. In practice, however, the entire vigil executed a right turn and walked over there in formation. The police then formed us into a column of twos and guarded our way across intersections, etc. Thanks to their expert handling of the march, a ten-minute walking distance required only one hour and fifteen minutes.

The original printed instructions read: 'If the authorities stop the walk between First Avenue and Times Square, it is possible that those marchers prepared for civil disobedience will nonviolently sit down at the point of stoppage. Those who do not sit down should simply step to the sidelines, stand by, and observe peacefully'. This plan was superseded by a better (more individualistic) ploy transmitted via the peace movement's

telephone tree. The new gambit was to disperse if stopped and make our way separately to Times Square.

The police didn't make any attempt to prevent our walk, although any number of bystanders would have wished them to. The size of the walk must have been impressive because even the *New York Times* admitted to 'at least 1,000'. The response was mostly negative, as could be expected, but some people were surprisingly sympathetic. One of the best things we had going for us was a well-dressed, highly inebriated blonde, standing in the doorway of a bar dancing and singing at the top of her lungs: 'A-tisket, a-tasket, you're a bunch of yellow baskets. . . . (That was no lady; that was my agent provocateur.)

At Times Square several separate picket lines were formed at various vantage points—no one spot would hold us all. The first group of civil disobedients sat down at Broadway and 42nd Street—'the crossroads of the world'. Later another group sat down at Broadway and 43rd Street. All told there were 32, of whom twelve were girls. Rush hour traffic was brought to a complete standstill. In making the arrests the police acted extremely well—I heard the commander of the detachment order, 'No sticks! No sticks!' Perhaps they've all been reading that policeman-is-your-friend jazz which they hand out to the school kids.

After the arrests the demonstrations continued in the square for about half an hour at which point the police dispersed everyone. One small contingent decided spontaneously to picket the nearest police station, but discovered on arrival that the sit-downers had been taken to another precinct.

At Night Court, Judge John J. Ryan seemed far more reasonable than most of the judges encountered. He paroled all the women and most of the men on their own recognizance, which meant that no bail had to be raised. In addition he dismissed the charges against David McReynolds because no arresting officer could identify him. Oddly enough McReynolds was the only one of the five draft-card burners of November 6 fame who was not indicted. At that time it was stated that because of his age he was not eligible for the draft anyway. If this sort of thing keeps up he's liable to get a complex.

The arraignments might have gone along quite smoothly if the police counsel had not been drinking so heavily. At one point he and the judge put their heads together for a consultation and a nearby peacenik said, 'Good! Now the judge will smell his breath.' But either the judge was devoid of nostrils or perhaps he was a trifle guilty too. (Let him who is without gin castigate the first stoned.)

The court procedure is that each protestor is considered a separate case, each with a personal arresting officer who swears to the truth of the charges. Indeed it was the lack of an officer for his very own which caused McReynolds to be released. Years ago they used to have one or two officers press the charges against a whole group *en masse*. This could lead to some interesting situations, the *ne plus ultra* being the 1955 Civil Defense Protest in City Hall Park. In that instance the official complaint was directed against one 'Rocco Parilli and 28 others . . . acting together'. But poor Rocco was far from a latter-day Thoreau; he was merely an elderly shoe

shine man who had picked a singularly inopportune time to wander into the park for a drink of water. He didn't know shit from Shinola about civil defence, let alone civil disobedience. I was told he sat around the police station in a fog—he just couldn't figure out what he was doing there. To this day he doesn't know what it was all about. In fact he's still around the park shining shoes, but it's rumoured that he hasn't had a drink of water in ten years.

Meanwhile back in Night Court the demonstrators were being brought out in clusters of three and all was well until the arrival of the Eric Weinberger trio. At that point the ossified police counsel made some comment about Eric's connection with an organization working for peace which brought forth an objection from the defence attorney. I missed both comment and objection, but not the explosion which followed. Swaying back and forth with one hand braced on the railing, the police counsel began raving loudly and incoherently about wanting it 'clear for the record that I did not make any prejudicial remarks, and did not even allude to his activities . . . but he has no roots in New York'. I half expected him to end his harangue, ' . . . and what's more, I can lick any man in the house'. Probably the only reason he didn't was the pacifists had him scared stiff.

Judge Ryan was evidently convinced that Eric was just the type to skip town, so he set bail at \$500. The defence attorney pleaded successfully that it be reduced, but even as it was being dropped to \$100 cash, Eric was interrupting with a statement that he would not accept any bail at all because it was

Continued on page 4

Inconveniencing Brass Monkeys

books?

We can supply any book in print

NEW BOOKS

Dada	H. Richter	35/-
	paper	18/-
Surrealism	P. Waldberg	35/-
	paper	18/-
Carnets 1942-51	Albert Camus	30/-
New Radio Drama	C. Finbow	15/-
Six Plays for Radio	Giles Cooper	15/-

REPRINTS AND CHEAP EDITIONS

The City	Max Weber	18/-
The World in the Evening	Christopher Isherwood	5/-
Plexus	Henry Miller	8/6
Tropic of Capricorn	Henry Miller	9/6
The City in History	Lewis Mumford	21/-
The Unknown Citizen	Tony Parker	3/6
Three Who Made a Revolution	B. D. Wolfe	12/6
A Precocious Autobiography	Y. Yevtushenko	4/6

SECONDHAND

Le Corbusier Exhibition Catalogue 1959, 3/-; The Americans, Geoffrey Gorer 5/-; The Crown and the Establishment, Kingsley Martin 8/6; The Idea of Progress, J. B. Bury 15/-; The Vatican Against Europe, Edmond Paris 11/-; Diagnosis of Our Time, Karl Mannheim 7/6; Candid Reminiscences: My First 30 Years, Upton Sinclair 7/6; Racial Pride and Prejudice, Eric John Dingwall 6/-; Australia—the Unpromised Land, I. N. Steinberg 5/-; Manifesto (FPSI 1931), ed. C. E. M. Joad 6/-; Revolution and Counter Revolution in Spain, Felix Morrow (paper-back) 12/6; The Problem of the Unemployed (1906), J. A. Hobson 7/6; The Metropolis, Upton Sinclair 6/6; The Last Days of Hitler, H. R. Trevor-Roper 3/6; Elements of Economic Theory, Erich Roll 4/-; The Bible Handbook, G. W. Foot and W. P. Ball 3/-.

Freedom Bookshop

(Open 2 p.m.—5.30 p.m. daily;
10 a.m.—1 p.m. Thursdays;
10 a.m.—5 p.m. Saturdays).

17a MAXWELL ROAD
FULHAM SW6 Tel: REN 3756

FREEDOM PRESS PUBLICATIONS

SELECTIONS FROM 'FREEDOM'
Vol 2 1952: Postscript to Posterity
Vol 3 1953: Colonialism on Trial
Vol 4 1954: Living on a Volcano
Vol 5 1955: The Immoral Moralists
Vol 6 1956: Oil and Troubled Waters
Vol 7 1957: Year One—Sputnik Era
Vol 8 1958: Socialism in a Wheelchair
Vol 9 1959: Print, Press & Public
Vol 10 1960: The Tragedy of Africa
Vol 11 1961: The People in the Street
Vol 12 1962: Pilkington v. Beeching
Vol 13 1963: Forces of Law and Order

Each volume: paper 7/6 cloth 10/6
The paper edition of the Selections is available to readers of FREEDOM at 5/6 post free.

VERNON RICHARDS
Malatesta: His Life and Ideas
cloth 21/-; paper 10/6.

E. MALATESTA
Anarchy Paper 1/-

PROUDHON
What is Property? cloth 42/-

ALEXANDER BERKMAN
ABC of Anarchism paper 2/6

HERBERT READ
Poetry & Anarchism paper 2/6

ALEX COMFORT
Delinquency 6d.

PAUL ELTZBACHER
Anarchism (Seven Exponents of the Anarchist Philosophy) cloth 21/-

RUDOLF ROCKER
Nationalism and Culture
cloth 21/-

HARLES MARTIN
Towards a Free Society 2/6

JOHN HEWETSON
Ill-Health, Poverty and the State
cloth 2/6 paper 1/-

VOLINE
Nineteen-Seventeen (The Russian Revolution Betrayed) cloth 12/6
The Unknown Revolution
(Kronstadt 1921, Ukraine 1918-21)
cloth 12/6

E. A. GUTKIND
The Expanding Environment
(Illustrated) boards 8/6

GEORGE BARRETT
The First Person (Selections) 2/6

The Happiest Days of Your Life?

SHOULD ANYONE at the age of 16 or 17—or at any age—be subjected to the Public School System? Boys' Public Schools I do not know much about, but I have gathered information from friends who have attended them. The majority of them hated it, but admit that they got more freedom than girls get at Public School.

Admittedly my parents sincerely believe that they are doing 'the right thing' for me—but are they? This pro-conservative, truly British and 'superior' education has done nothing for me, except to turn me away from 'convention'. People are excessively critical at Public School, and competitive—a disease caught as a result of suppression. The best years of my life—if they are, I'm giving up now!

This whole system is run by regimentation. Armies march down long dark corridors from lesson to lesson and silence prevails out of the classrooms. One is even compelled to go upstairs quietly. It is a great privilege for 6th formers to be allowed to talk in their cloakroom at the end of the morning and afternoon. These rules are

apparently necessary because of the large numbers in the school.

Class snobishness is common and is extremely contagious in such a large, closed community. Freedom of speech is tolerated, but any radical ideas are certainly looked down upon.

The respect cult is outrageously overdone. One is expected to respect those in a higher year, however old they are, and even prefects of one's own age. Prefects are appointed to ensure that the rules are carried out and if they are not, to suppress the offender. The prefect system surely increases the class-consciousness that infects this country today. It is in this way that all sense of proportions is lost and small, internal matters become ridiculously magnified.

At the beginning of the 6th Form course one is informed that 'you are now students'—i.e. you will be expected to behave and work as an adult, but will still be treated as a child. This is a course of self-chosen subjects. I had no choice; having been told which subjects I was incapable of doing, I was left with 3 which (1) I could do, and (2) would fit into the timetable. I admit, however, that I am no scholar!

What can be more enjoyable than a game of hockey or lacrosse on a bleak winter's day, especially when one has been forcefully evicted from the house? It is all very well for those who enjoy it—but what about the vast majority that hate it? There should be a selection of subjects for physical education so that everyone can follow their own choice. A very poor and worthless game is played with unco-operative players. Inter-house matches are almost a matter of life and death to many. Surely these are such trivial matters. 'Team spirit' is a wicked thing to force upon people. Extra early morning training is not justified.

Religion is forced upon one. Non-Christians have to go to the Church of England, where they are expected to contribute to the collection. Jews pay large sums for apparently useless weekly lessons which are compulsory. Atheists are looked down upon. Morning Prayers is not the great event it is supposed to be; everyone sings half-heartedly and repeats prayers like tape-recorders.

The plays done by the local repertory company, which seniors are allowed to go to occasionally, are censored if they are not considered 'suitable'. The large majority of seniors are over 16, so why shelter us? Many will leave school knowing nothing of the 'world they are going into'. Even 'Oh, What a Lovely War' was censored. If one wishes to write to any male, other than relations, a writing list has to be provided to the housemistress; i.e. parent's permission has to be obtained. Some letters 'mysteriously' never reach you.

The house-staff are in no way the figureheads which are supposed to replace your parents whilst one is at school. Our matron is far from being a motherly person and is never sympathetic. The house is run by rules and fear. One is compelled to eat everything at meal-times and all meals have to be attended. No more than one small helping is allowed at each meal—even if both courses are inedible—a frequent occurrence. Is half a kipper a substantial supper? The teaching staff are well paid and, despite the £500 odd paid in fees, the amount paid for our upkeep is abominable.

The missing link in this system is freedom; personal freedom and freedom to have a part in the running of the school. Parents have no say in how their money is spent. The juniors live miserable existences. Excats are limited; so are seniors' excats. The Victorian

days of 'little girls should be seen and not heard' are long over. The youth of today are getting a higher standard of education than ever before. As a result of this we are beginning to think for ourselves and are becoming mature earlier. Why, then, are we still being treated as infants and delinquents? Ah, but one cannot change tradition.

SAMANTHA ALEXANDER.

AGAINST ALL BOMBS

SIXTEEN PEOPLE ATTENDED a meeting of syndicalists and anarchists convened by Roger Sandell on February 20, to discuss the coming Easter March. Their suggestions, which will be discussed at the AFB conference, include the following:

1. That apart from red-and-black banners, slogans should be carried which make it plain that anarchists are marching AGAINST BOMBS EAST AND WEST and we should try as far as possible to avoid any ensuing conflict with the organisers of the march.

2. That comrades let Roger Sandell know if they can offer or if they require accommodation.

There have been other suggestions which, interesting as they are, are hardly for publication. Nevertheless, people who wish to help should send money to Roger Sandell for posters, for leaflets, transport, etc. A comrade has offered to do all the posters but needs a month in which to do them. Roger's address is of course in the groups column (Southall). R.

AFB CONFERENCE

AS THERE HAS been no objection raised to our proposals for the next Anarchist Federation of Britain Conference to be held in Birmingham on the weekend of April 2-3, we shall proceed accordingly and book accommodation, etc.

While several groups and individuals have made many constructive suggestions, few have specifically asked for overnight accommodation. It would greatly help us to cater for comrades' needs if we had some idea of the numbers coming. Would comrades who intend to come please write in without delay as available accommodation will be given on the basis of first come first served, and therefore latecomers could well (though not necessarily) find themselves in the position where they have to avail themselves of the Salvation Army or our excellent Reception Centre. At the moment most beds are already taken. In order not to be disappointed please write quickly.

Yours fraternally,
PETER NEVILLE,
for Birmingham Anarchist Group.

SABOTAGE

STATEMENT PREPARED BY SIX MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP OF WEST MIDLANDS COMMITTEE OF 100 — 13.2.66

WE REGARD SABOTAGE as one of a number of alternative forms of action, each of which is relevant to different circumstances. It is up to the individual to decide his actions in the light of his own conscience, his sense of responsibility and agreement with his fellows.

PAUL JAMES, BOB DEARDEN,
PETER NEVILLE, D. J. AUSTIN,
GORDON CAUSER, MARTIN BRAGG.

LETTER

Sorry

OPS and very sorry. We thought when we sent the letter about the March to FREEDOM that Sall Mitchison was still secretary of EYCND. She's not! A slip up due to writing too many letters too quick. People needing accommodation in Edinburgh please contact Ian Healey, 40 York Place, Edinburgh.

Also please any chance of getting the March put in the contact column for a few weeks... this address please.

Ta
Aberdeen IAN S. SUTHERLAND, JNR.

LONG LIVE THE WEEDS & THE WILDERNESS YET!

HERE is a simple story. It is told by children. Busy adults please listen. There are six and a half acres of 'magic land' in Kentish Town, off Burghley Road. It is in fact disused railway land, with a derelict engine-shed in one corner. For donkeys years generation after generation of children have played there, finding retreat from 'construction' and 'improvement' (and from Mummy and Daddy and 'organised sport'). This is their territory. In summer it is almost like the countryside, with trees and daisies, and 8-ft. high cow parsley, and snails to be found under the leaves. Now all this is threatened. The 'wicked fairies' of this story are in the Planning Department of Camden Borough Council, who want to build houses on this 'magic land'.

The children want to save their natural playground. Two hundred of them drew up a forthright petition on pretty coloured paper. This, together with their essays and drawings of the territory, will be presented to Camden Council. It says:

WE CHILDREN of Kentish Town and Gospel Oak want The Alps or sometimes called The Old Dump and now known as Tammoland, to stay as it is, because we like playing there. We think that the idea to have a clubhouse there is smash-

ing. Tammoland is better to go to than Parliament Hill Fields because you can do what you like there and the Fields are too far away for us. We like the tall grass and we like finding things like Snails and Grasshoppers. There are also lots of places there where you can hide, and we can climb the trees. If they put houses on Tammoland we will have to play in the street, where lorries come rattling down.—Janice Askard, age 13 (signed by over 200 other children).

The parents are also up in arms. Practically every person in Burghley Road and Lady Somerset Road signed a petition with the more prosaic wording:

WE, residents of Burghley Road, Lady Somerset Road and the area surrounding the open space known as 'The Alps' are opposed to this land being built upon.

We are also deeply perturbed about the news that families in the Burghley Road area should be re-housed.—(signed) Tammo de Jongh, 10 Lady Somerset Road, N.W.5 and 250 others.

Here is an issue which really does rise above political preferences. Whatever William Golding may say, the child's view of life is the only one valid for him. In many cases, when we speak of children's needs, we speak of our needs projected onto them. Not so here.

We realise that if the children get their

way, builders, architects and others will have to miss out.

But, to quote from Tommy Brosman, aged 10:

We all signed our names because we don't want people on the London County Council to build houses there. There are enough houses already, and not enough places to play.

How wise he is. There is more vacant accommodation in this country than there are homeless people.

How can this be so? A combination of private greed (landlords holding out for high rents while paying no rates on empty property), and municipal bureaucratic waste (buying and closing whole streets that stay empty for years)—you can add your own examples. In the present writer's neighbourhood there are dozens of empty dwellings that have remained unoccupied since he came to live in Camden Town four years ago.

Here is, then, yet another case where the actual needs of specific individuals are being set aside for the theoretical good of some other, more important, body. The children say, and this we anarchists fully endorse, 'There must be houses, and there must also be wild, open spaces'. The health of the community depends on both being available. Yet one can be wrong; but it is up to the local community to decide, in open and free consultation. It seems to us that the children and the parents of the neighbourhood of Burghley Road have already decided.

Surely, Councillor Peggy Duff, chairman of Camden's Planning Committee, is not going to be the 'wicked fairy' of this story.

JOHN RETY.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

Temporary Acting Secretary, Albert Meltzer, 10 Gilbert Place, W.C.1.

London Anarchist Group 1&2

'Lamb and Flag', Rose Street, off Garrick Street, London, W.C.2. (Leicester Square tube) 7.45 p.m. All welcome.

Sundays.

FEB. 27 A. Rajk
Anarchism Without Anarchists

MAR. 6 John Rety
Anarchists and Nuclear Disarmers

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

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.

Last Thursday in month at George Hayes', 174 McLeod Road, S.E.2.

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

4th Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at David Bell's, 19 Aberdeen Road, Highbury, N.5.

LEWISHAM, S.E.13. Further meeting at 61b Granville Park, S.E.13, Thursday, March 3, 7.30 p.m. To discuss progress and future projects.

WANDSWORTH LIBERTARIANS. Correspondence to Tony Cadman, 116 Tilehurst Road, Earlsfield, London, S.W.19.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

ABERDEEN GROUP. Meets at the Adelphi 2.30 p.m. every Sunday. Correspondence to I. R. Mitchell, 137 Faulds Gate, Aberdeen.

ARLESEY GROUP (N. Herts., S. Beds.). Meetings on first Friday of month. Correspondence to Peter and Maureen Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.

BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnhurst, Kent.

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Convenor: Peter Neville. Correspondence Secretary: Martin Bragg, 25 Fitz Roy Avenue, Harborne, Birmingham, 15 (BEAwood 1504). Sales: Gordon Causer, 27 Upper Gungate, Tamworth, Staffs. (Tamworth 4562). Regular Meetings

BRISTOL FEDERATION. Enquiries to Ian Vine, 3 Freeland Place, Hotwells, Bristol, 8.

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike Crowley, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.

COVENTRY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence Secretary: Eric Harrison, 9 Hermitage Road, Wyken, Coventry.

DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, c/o Doctors' Residence, Stracathro Hospital, by Brechin, Angus.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1.

HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. First meeting Wednesday, February 23 at 14 Centre Avenue, Epping. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 12 Shawbridge, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.

LEICESTER ANARCHISTS. Correspondence, Peter Gibbon, 22 Fosse Road Central, West End, Leicester.

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact: Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road, Droylesden. Meetings alternate Tuesdays, 8 p.m. at the Lord Nelson, Chapel Street, Manchester.

ILFORD LIBERTARIANS. Regular meetings and direct action contact 212 Vicarage Road, Leyton, E.10.

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

NORTH-WEST ESSEX. Meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at Robert Barltrop's, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near Saffron Walden. January meeting on the 8th.

ORINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson.

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

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Philip Lord, 160 Castle Hill, Reading.

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

STOKE LIBERTARIANS. Correspondence Secretary: Bob Blakeman, 52 Weldon Avenue, Weston Coyney, Stoke-on-Trent.

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). Meetings 7.30 p.m.

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Mr. Karl Taylor, 98 Clova Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7 (MAR 0507) Meetings every Wednesday.

PROPOSED GROUPS

GOLDERS GREEN AND HENDON. Anyone interested get in touch with David McLelland, 54 Litchfield Way, London, N.W.11.

LEICESTER TOWN & GOWN. Get into touch with P. Gibbon, c/o Students' Union, Leicester University.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. Anyone interested get in touch with Bob Yorke, 69 Grimbald Avenue, Raunds, Wellingborough, Northants.

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

SCARBOROUGH. Any anarchist-minded persons please contact John B. Fettenby, 29 Cambridge Street, Scarborough, Yorks.

ABROAD

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

USA. ALBANY, NEW YORK. Contact E. Strauss, 230 Washington Avenue, Albany. Discussion group meets about twice a month.

CHAMBER OF HORRORS

WE HAD ARRIVED a few minutes before the advertised time, as they say—my daughter, her friend E. and myself—a quick look round showed the Committee of 100 supporters to be easily outnumbered, both by the police and the regular sightseers arriving by coach. Compared with the old Committee demonstrations of a few years back, it looked like being a non-starter.

However, faced with the immediate problem—to hold a debate on Vietnam between unrepresented people—we agreed that by entering independently, we would have a much better chance of passing through the large numbers of policemen circulating inside and outside—and in my Lady's Chamber. And so it proved. But we were, of course, cut off from the main body of Committee supporters, who were later to stage a sit down; and these few notes are, therefore, a purely subjective (and abbreviated) account.

We were, I think, the last to enter as individuals as distinct from the hordes of guided sightseers. In the police mind there is a great sartorial gulf fixed between sit-downer and look-rounder. That a sit-downer might resemble a look-rounder apparently never occurs to it. An officer in a Peaked Cap, of whom we were to see and hear more, did seem worried about the contents of my knapsack, but we were relieved to hear it contained nothing of a suspicious nature, and we were politely directed 'Up those stairs'.

Once inside, one was strongly reminded of Madame Tussaud's—though it must be remembered that this was a Saturday afternoon, when no Honourable Members are present. (Yet the feeling persisted, and with it the speculation about another possible demonstration—at Tussaud's, where all the Cabinet would be present.) So we drifted on, always passing more policemen, posted presumably at strategic points—a compliment to the Committee's advance publicity, perhaps.

At last we were in a fair sized hall with red backed benches reminding one vaguely of a courtroom.

'This is where they debate the difficult questions, the controversial ones... sex... and things like that.' Thus spake the guide. We are in the House of Lords, apparently. More corridors, some baddish historical paintings, and what seems to be a rather smaller, tattier edition of the Lords, the Chamber of the House of Commons. 'The heart, as you might say, of British Democracy.' And what is the first thing that strikes the eye of an impartial observer? Half a dozen well-built policemen, ready and undoubtedly willing to hit out at words and pounce on coughs, should they be emitted in the slightest degree subversively.

However, this seems to be the Moment. The Moment for what though? That speech you came to make on the war in Vietnam, of course. Here? Now? Besides the incongruity...

'I am sorry to interrupt the speaker, but there is a war going on in Vietnam.'

That is E.'s voice. And now E. is on the floor, being pressed to the heart of British Democracy. And now four strong men drag E. (who does not resist) away and out at the far door, and the guide has fled by the near door and his flock are filtering after him.

'That man was no crank—and I am no crank—I am the father of four children.'

That is my voice, and it surprises me. I mention the slaughter in Vietnam, the bombings supported by all Members of this House. My audience has dwindled to two. They whisper to each other in French.

I say rudely: 'Have you heard of Vietnam in France?'

'Yes, but my friend wishes to know what the gentleman just said to be so roughly handled.'

'He was so unwise as to try to speak about Vietnam in this House.'

More sightseers flooded in from the far end where they dragged E. out. The Frenchmen go out through the near door and we follow them. In the corridor we pass two girls who are being 'escorted' out, shouting: 'Peace in Vietnam!' And the officer in the Peaked Cap is shouting: 'We are being denuded of men.' We join another guided party and lo, 'Meredith, we're in'—again.

We recognise the same four policemen back on duty. Will they recognise us?

'The British conception of Democracy is slightly different from others.'

Members not necessarily voting according to their opinions.

One of the policemen looms up.

'Were you with that bloke we just took out?'

'This young lady happens to be my daughter.'

'Very good, sir. Carry on, sir.'

'If I do, I have no doubt you will immediately arrest me.'

The policeman has turned into four policemen and my daughter has sat down on the heart of British Democracy. They take us to the dungeons in a lift.

Peaked Cap was there, holding the book. He seemed cross; there was no charge against us. He informed me my car number had been noted. I wondered why. Two hours later we were released.

D.M.

'THE FACE THAT LAUNCHED a thousand ships' (Elizabeth Taylor as Marlowe's Helen at Oxford) gave way in newspapers to the face (of Denis Healey, Defence Minister) who sank a few aircraft carriers and precipitated the resignation of Mr. Christopher Mayhew, the Minister of Defence for the Navy. Mr. J. P. W. Mallalieu, the Under-Secretary for the Navy, failed to go down with the aircraft carriers or with his senior minister but instead succeeded him. On Sunday afternoon, February 20, the BBC Home Service broadcast *Sixteen Lives of a Drunken Dreamer* the main character was Jack Mallalieu.

IT APPEARS THAT in defence policy we must continue to rely on Britain's junior role as an 'unsinkable aircraft carrier'.

SPECULATION WAS rife about the election date. Meanwhile Conservatives in Paddington occupied in error a public-house meeting room which had been booked by the Labour Party for a discussion on 'Crime', a minority of Conservatives left when the error was pointed out but many stayed on. The *New Statesman* letter columns led off with a prospective (Conservative) parliamentary candidate condemning the resumption of American bombing in Vietnam, this is followed by a letter from the secretary of a Ward Labour Party condemning 'appeasement' of the Chinese communist imperialist.

THE SAME ISSUE of the *New Statesman* contains an account by Mr. Matthew Coady of the second reading of Mr. Humphrey Berkeley's (Con.) Bill to reform the law on homosexuality which got a second reading (in a thin house) by a majority of 57 votes. Mr. Coady quotes a Tory MP saying, 'This is the most disgraceful day I have witnessed since I was elected to the House of Commons', and a Labour MP, 'What with hanging, homosexuals and abortion the electorate will think we have gone bloody daft'. Mr. Coady further says, 'Many Labour MPs—and most of them were absent on Friday—have no time at all for Mr. Berkeley's Bill or, indeed, for any other liberal issue. For example the *West London Observer* quotes Mr. Frank Tomney, MP for North Hammsmith, speaking of the Bill thus: "The Bill is signed by people who in the main cannot be described as the horny-handed

'M.P. Urges Laws for the Moon'

—Daily Express

sons of toil. I speak in no sense of denigration of my cross-Chamber friendships or associations, but the Bill is signed by those who, in my opinion, have never had to lead the life of the ordinary people. The people who matter most are the ordinary people outside, the mums and dads carrying the responsibilities of society and of rearing the country's citizens." The *Sunday Times* carries on with its advocacy of the Brain report (see *Anarchy* 60) and contains a tendentious 'interview' with two anarchist doctors on the question of drug addiction.

ACCORDING TO Mr. Andrew Roth's *Business Background of MPs*, MPs in the present House have a total of 1,100 posts in banking, industry or commerce at the level of director or above. This is larger than in any of the last three parliaments. Mr. Roth says that Sir Arthur Vere Harvey (Con.) has fourteen directorships. Mr. Peter Walker, the Opposition front bench spokesman on financial affairs told the annual dinner of the Worcester Conservative Association that the Board of Trade would have to increase its staff by an additional 1,100 at a cost of two and a half million pounds per year. Since the Labour Government came to power the number of people employed by the Inland Revenue had increased by 2,500. The new Ministry of Land and Natural Resources, which has not yet even established the Land Commission, had 304 Civil Servants working for it, and the new Department of Economic Affairs had already more than 500 Civil Servants. Substantial increases had already taken place in the staff of other ministries, added Mr. Walker. A Treasury spokesman said that the total of Civil Servants had increased but because of the transfer of functions between different depart-

OUT OF THIS WORLD

ments it was not as large as one might imagine. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the RAF told the House of Commons that the Ministry of Defence had to pay £1,986,000 per year to maintain its 165 dog establishments here and abroad. Altogether there are 1,857 dogs which cost about £1,000 each a year in upkeep.

TWO WEST INDIANS are claiming damages for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution from two officers who arrested them for attempting to steal or drive away a car. The jury acquitted them after a retirement of eight minutes. They stated in evidence that the police who arrested them said that one PC wanted to ask some questions. He later said to the other PC, 'Do you reckon these two?' He nodded, and said, 'You are both under arrest.' The officer said at the station, 'He tried two car door handles and got into a mini-minor.' The officer then placed a bunch of car keys amongst the West Indian's possessions. I said, 'What are these?' He said, 'These are the keys you were trying the car with.' I said, 'I have never seen these keys before. I know nothing about them.' At the time he was unable to drive a car. They were released from the police station five hours after they had been picked up. They happened to be a Trinidadian lawyer and a cricket professional.

LEGAL EXPERTS in Florence are to hold a mock trial to establish if Florence was justified in exiling Dante seven hundred years ago. The *Daily Worker* on Monday carried the story that criminologists in Moscow have established the authenticity of a letter written by Pushkin to the Czar admitting authorship of a blasphemous poem. Pushkin wrote, 'But now that the question is put directly to me by my sovereign I declare that I wrote the poem *Gavriiliada* in 1818, I throw myself upon the Czar's mercy and magnanimity.' On Tuesday John Gollan, secretary of the Communist Party, declared that the sentences upon the two Russian writers were of 'great concern' to friends of Russia. 'Justice,' said John Gollan, 'should not only be done, but should be seen to be done. Unfortunately, this cannot be said in the case of this trial.' Valerie Tarsis, Russian author, who denounced the Russian government as 'Fascist' has had his Soviet citizenship withdrawn.

JON QUIXOTE.

ROUND THE GALLERIES

DOM SYLVESTER HOUEDARD in his brilliant essay *Between poetry and painting* wrote that the area 'between Poetry and Painting is where they overlap—they do this (a) since all writing originates in painting (writing is painting words) and (b) since it is possible to think in images alone. Though one would like so much to trail one's coat on behalf of his lucid arguments on behalf of concrete poetry, one knows that behind the eager emotional acceptance stands the cynical mind whispering that this is but another cul-de-sac of the

arts. As with abstract painting, it eschews the desire to communicate the agony and wonder, the beauty and the horror, the glory and the druggery that is the birthright for all men and leave in its place a parasitical mosaic of unrelated words and colours that can only exist as mindless reflexions of other men's rational statements.

Divorced from the substance of the visual manifestation of the rational and accepted means of communication, they become as shifting coloured shadows, meaningless without the sweating human body that cast them upon the indifferent earth. Yet it is of the fashion, and the Town rightly pays attention to the gifted and intelligent men who are devoting, what one must most sadly believe, so much energy in the vain attempt to breathe life into a stillborn mouse. At the Grosvenor Gallery, at 28 Davies Street, W.1, is an exhibition of the last work of Enrico Cervelli, executed just before his tragic death in 1961. That there should be no mistake, he called this work his *Lettera Magica Series*.

They hang upon the walls of the gallery and from a distance they appear to have the beauty of ancient illuminated manuscripts, islands of colour in a sea of crabbed philosophy. But one must communicate with the mind behind the hand that wielded the pen and brush, and it is only when one approaches, that the awaited revelation disappears into a meaningless scrawl of moronic scribble. In their mindless fashion they are very lovely, yet men a thousand years from now may handle them and find them as valueless as vessels of communications as we who tread the same city stones as the painter who created them.

At the Signals Gallery, at 30 Wigmore Street, W.1, Alejandro Otero, again, offers magnificent examples of this parasitical art. Always the suggestion of a revealed truth in the torn paper or the grubby letter lying like a dead leaf upon its background of borrowed aged wood or alien metal yet, when we approach to touch the flower truth, we find that it is but a tawdry piece of bunting mirroring, from a distance, our own mental visions of the material world. As the mentally disturbed or a precocious and unlettered child might understandingly attempt to imitate, with colour chalks, the act of writing, so do these, our poets and our painters, offer

a mindless and infantile world framed in the cage of intelligent craftsmanship and the appreciation of the work offered must vary with the sophisticated and intellectual background of the spectator.

Bob Cobbing has in the past chosen to display his talents in the breaking and remaking of the written word but in his current exhibition at Better Books in the Charing Cross Road he offers 45 paintings that one can accept without reference to his role as one of the numerous high priests of concrete poetry. The catalogue, as on all these occasions, is pretentious and dispensable, as with the recent exhibition in the same gallery by Michael Horovitz for, while Cobbing used his titles as starting points, Horovitz applied each of his titles as an afterthought.

Cobbing's abstracts make no great claim upon the mind only on the eye and each individual creation displays the hand of a sensitive artist who loves his tools too well, and the use to which he must put them, too little. Cobbing can use his pen and brush but only to capture the dying echoes of another man's ended song.

It is left to four young Scottish painters to make and win a claim on the attention of the Town for the Piccadilly Gallery, at 16a Cork Street, W.1, which is slowly beginning to establish itself as a worthy successor to the late Beaux Arts Gallery in their showings of intelligent and competent British regional painters.

These four Scots painters have, each in his own fashion, offered their vision of the world around them and that world is Scotland, in its beauty and brutishness. Brown offers a rain-swept, sky-haunted world while Knox's is a suburban world of crude vulgarity. Johnstone offers subdued abstractions with the human body as his point of departure and Smith an abstract invocation in white and grey of the Scottish coastline and each man in his fashion has recorded his vision of the land upon which he stands and the people among whom he walks.

I will willingly read Dom Sylvester Houédard when he states: and it is only in the context of communication theory and Wittgenstein's investigations, plus the way artists and poets were influenced by Zen concepts of mind and meaning, that a critic can see the sort of forces that have drawn poets and painters together in a common field, until I stand before Brown's green and misted Scottish moor, and then my animal heart cries 'No' to all your sterile theories.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

Reading Debate on School Freedom

A COUPLE of weeks ago the 'Freedom in Education' leaflet was given out at our school, Reading School. It caused a lot of comment (mostly unfavourable). The school debating society decided to hold a debate about it. Huw Price, a former pupil of the school and a member of the Reading Anarchist Group, was asked to come and propose the motion, 'This house agrees with the views on education of the Libertarian Movement'. However, the headmaster got wind of it, and banned Huw from

even entering the school grounds. The debate took place anyway. We lost of course, although only by 4 votes, and we were surprised that 17 people seemed to agree with the leaflet.

It is most unlikely that anyone will take any action to put into practice any of the suggestions in the leaflet, but at least it made some people think about the schools system.

Reading

A.R.

P.W.

G.H.

MAKE SURE OF YOUR ANARCHIST JOURNALS BY SUBSCRIBING!

Freedom WEEKLY

Price 4d. Every Saturday except the first in each month. (40 issues per year.)

BY POST:

1 year (40 issues) 22s. 6d. (U.S. \$3)

6 months (20 issues) 11s. 6d. (\$1.50)

3 months (10 issues) 6s. (75c.)

SPECIAL RATE FOR 2 COPIES:

1 year (40 issues) 30s. (U.S. \$4.50)

6 months (20 issues) 15s. (\$2.25)

BY AIR MAIL:

1 year (40 issues) 45s. (U.S. \$7)

FREEDOM by AIR MAIL, ANARCHY

Anarchy MONTHLY

Price 2s. (2s. 3d. or 30c. by post) Appears first Saturday of each month.

BY POST:

1 year (12 issues) 26s. (U.S. \$3.50)

BY AIR MAIL: 1 year 47s. (\$7)

JOINT SUB. FREEDOM/ANARCHY:

1 year 42s. (\$6), 6 months 22s. (\$3)

3 months 11s. 6d. (\$1.50)

2 COPIES OF EACH:

1 year 63s. (\$9), 6 months 31s. 6d. (\$4.50)

BY SURFACE: 1 year 65s. (\$9.50)

Cheques, P.O.'s and Money Orders should be made out to FREEDOM PRESS, crossed A/c Payee and addressed to the publishers:

Freedom Press

17a MAXWELL ROAD, LONDON, S.W.6 Phone: RENown 3736

Rank & File Opposition to Legislation

IT WAS IN 1899 that the Trades Union Congress passed the resolution giving instructions to the Parliamentary Committee to organise a conference embracing all working class organisations with the intention of putting forward their own candidates for election to Parliament. After years of debate on the subject, steps were taken to this end and, in 1906, the Labour Party was born, with 29 members in the House of Commons.

Trade unionists at that time felt it was necessary to have 'their own' men in Parliament, for when they formed the Government, they would be in a position to legislate in favour of trade unions. It is ironic now that the very party formed to act in support of trades unionists is now proposing legislation against them. The Labour Government's Bill for compulsory 'early warning' of wage claims and price rises will fine trade unionists and officials of trade unions if either or both take industrial action or both.

The TUC, who gave birth to the Labour Party, are now worried about what their very grown-up child proposes in this Bill. The Government, for constitutional reasons, cannot disclose its contents, but Mr. Brown has assured the TUC that union leaders will not pay fines if their rank and file take industrial action to further a pay claim. He has also assured them that large companies would pay a much heavier fine than an individual worker or a small union. With

these assurances, the TUC seems certain to approve the legislation, for the union leaders, no doubt, see that the legislation is really aimed at their rank and file members.

LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT

This week, while TUC bureaucrats talk with Mr. Brown, rank and file union members have been organising their opposition to the Bill. Three unofficial committees, representing dockers, building and exhibition workers, have called for a mass lobby of Parliament in protest against the proposed legislation. These committees are the London Port Workers' Liaison Committee (West India Docks), the Joint Sites Committee and the London Exhibition Workers' Coordinating Committee. In their Press release they say: 'Views have been widely expressed that the compulsory notification and deferment proposals in the Bill will apply not only to national claims for higher pay, but to local claims, and to claims for shorter hours and improved conditions.'

'Reports have appeared that fines might be compulsorily deducted from wages.'

'There should be no illusions on the scope of the legislation. It could mean that during the deferment period—which could last for months—an official strike, overtime ban, work to rule, mass demonstrations, mass meetings during working hours, publication, or any action at national or job level, could lead to heavy fines and imprisonment in default of payment for any or all of those taking part.'

Further on, it says: 'Our committees know from experience that the wages and conditions of our members have been won, to a considerable extent, by local as well as national negotiation and action. We are not prepared to surrender hard won rights to secure such advances.'

Other trade unionists in every industry are called upon to support this campaign. 'Every Member of Parliament must be made fully aware of the mounting opposition to the Bill. Every Union which opposes such legislation should make clear to its sponsored and financed MPs where the union stands. Every Labour MP must be urged to oppose the Bill. The TUC, which only endorsed legislation by a narrow majority and which is clearly having serious second thoughts, should come out strongly against the Bill.'

The men, who were employed in the

Leaflets are being distributed calling for support for the Lobby and already other workers have pledged their support including those at the Royal Group of docks and the ENV shop stewards' committee. The campaign has quickly gained momentum and it looks as if there will be a very good turnout for the lobby.

LINK-UP OF INDUSTRIES

First of all I think that a campaign at rank and file level is very welcome. At last we are getting action which unites workers from different industries and the link-up and liaison which we have been advocating in this paper for a long time. While welcoming and supporting this aspect of the campaign, I feel that as Anarchists we should oppose the idea of lobbying MPs. No doubt some pressure can be brought to bear upon them but there is no guarantee that they will keep their word. A lobby is a harmless method of channelling protest and opposition.

It is understandable that those who believe in the ballot box and the system of parliamentary election will take part in a lobby to express opposition, but why go to the very people who are likely to vote for the Bill? This may be part of constitutional procedure but surely trade unionists know that this will get them nowhere. There is the danger that the campaign will take this road and end up as a pressure group on MPs, the TUC, etc.

We already have a strong basis of rank and file support against the legislation and it is their action that will defeat it. **We should have no faith in a lobby, MPs, the Labour or any other political Party, but rely on our own strength.** We should plan not just for a one day stoppage for a lobby, but a campaign of stoppages. This is the way to force the Government to abandon this Bill.

Legislation of the nature proposed by the Labour Government illustrates the very reason why Anarchists do not believe in the parliamentary system. This Government is supposed to be 'our own'. Whosoever we put there ends up the same and the whole history of the working class has been one long string of betrayals by this or that leadership. This is borne out by the present Government. So are we to have another political campaign through the traditional channels of protest by a pressure group, or are we going to force the Government to abandon legislation by the widespread industrial action of rank and file trade unionists? I think the latter, though harder to achieve, will succeed. Let us hope the one day stoppage on March 1 will be the end of the former type of protest and a beginning to a definite programme of direct action.

P.T.

Fire Down Below

WHILE IRISH EMBASSY officials were busily scurrying around to New Scotland Yard to instigate another series of police raids on the houses of Irish workers in London, 500 yards from the Embassy 49 Irishmen were fighting their way out of a smoke-filled tunnel 65 feet below the streets of London's busy West End.

The men, who were employed in the

building of the new Victoria Tube tunnel, were trapped when a fire, caused by a faulty wire, sparked off a 'pile of wood'. All but six were able to escape shortly after the alarm was given, but the others were trapped at the pit-head and were only saved from certain death by an air-block. They were eventually freed by firemen and hustled off home in an obvious attempt to prevent them meeting the Press—it is worthy of note that the only man who was allowed to meet the Press was the only non-Irishman present, Nicholas Emson, son of Air Vice-Marshal Emson.

That the fire started is small wonder—the wiring in the tunnel, and indeed, the wiring over the whole Victoria project, consists of what is called in the electrical trade 'botching'. Contrary to the IEE regulations, the London Electricity Board regulations, and the Factory Acts, the temporary wiring consists of single core PVC cable supplying ordinary bakelite cord-grip lamp-holders and wired without any colour designation on the polarities (i.e. both phase and neutral being red, instead of red and black respectively). The supply, contrary to regulations, is run direct at 220v. instead of being transformed down to 110v. The bakelite lamp-holders are of the ordinary cord-grip domestic type whereas common-sense demands the use of bayonet pin holders.

(Reprinted from the Irish Workers' News.)

PRESS FUND

WEEK 7, FEBRUARY 19, 1966

Expenses: 7 weeks at £80: £560

Income: Sales and Subs.: £318

DEFICIT £242

Kirkby Mallory: P.C. 18/-; Oxford: Anon* 5/-; London, N.4: E.P. 8/-; London, N.W.11: S.C. 18/-; London, N.1: S.B. 10/-; Watford: J.R. £1 15s.; Cambridge: M.P. 5/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Northolt Anarchists*: 3/-; York: P.C. £2 2s.; London, N.W.10: E.L.T. 18/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; Rosyth: J.D. £2; Glasgow: T.D. 8/-; Santa Monica: N.P. £2 12s. 6d.; Rochdale: B.B. 10/-; Oxford: L.O. 10/-; Edgware Group: R. & F. 2/6.

TOTAL: £15 0 0

Previously Acknowledged: £119 0 0

1966 Total to Date: £134 0 0

Contact Column

Oxan. Second issue now ready produced by Oxford Anarchist Group and Oxon Federation. 60 pp. 1/6 plus 1/- postage from Tony J. Pitcher, Merton College, Oxford. Donations welcome to meet loss on first issue.

Circumnavigators. Planning to work my way round the world and would like to hear from anyone who has already done it. Write to Bronwen Lee, 34 Bradley Gardens, London, W.13.

Help! Help wanted, male or female, to clean and redecorate room in East London. Evenings or Saturday afternoons. Remuneration by arrangement. Box 22.

Help Wanted. Thursday evenings from 5 p.m. onwards with folding and despatch of FREEDOM. No remuneration. Apply in person on Thursdays at Express Printers, 84a Whitechapel High Street, E.1 (up Angel Alley). Near Aldgate East Station. (Art Gallery exit)

Kenneth Patchen. Anthology compiler wants to make up bibliography of Kenneth Patchen and would like details of publications by/and articles on Patchen. Dennis K. Gould, Box 24.

Accommodation Vacant. Small room waiting for not too large a girl wanting accommodation in a mixed, rather boring semi-anarchist community in West London. Only 50/- including gas and electricity. Box 25.

Catholic Libertarians. There will be a meeting on 'The Aims of the Catholic Libertarians', Thursday March 10. 7 p.m. at 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

Accommodation wanted. Accommodation needed by couple (small income) with boy of 2½ and baby. London. Preferred unfurnished. Reliable and considerate. Box 23.

Help Wanted. To sell FREEDOM. West Ham Anarchists. At Brick Lane (Petticoat Lane). Meet Sunday morning, 11.15 a.m. at Bishopsgate entrance, Liverpool Street Station. Amesbury Avenue, London, S.W.2.

New Poster
War Want
Waste Why?

Politics!

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

If you wish to make contact let us know.

FREEDOM

For Workers' Control

FEBRUARY 26 1966 Vol 27 No 7

Westminster will Give you Nothing!

'WHEN WILL WE ever learn?' On Thursday, February 17, miners went to Westminster to lobby their MPs and one could scarcely distinguish it from a Sunday School outing. Even the *Guardian* which is the very epitome of parliamentary democracy, called it 'a sad affair', in spite of the embroidered banners which had led many a bitter battle in the old days.

Of course one must not refer back to the old days, we are more civilised now, there is no class struggle, master, man and government must work together to make Britain great again. To achieve this lofty objective it is now the fashion to lobby your MP, he is there to help you, he is the bloke who dishes out the bromide, if he finds you are not responding to treatment, he then cracks the whip and, at the death says, 'Well, really, there is nothing I can do'. You leave Westminster a sadder but unfortunately never a wiser man. One's immediate reaction 'Let's get these goats out and put another mob in', but funnily enough it's always the same old story; we must all be masochists at heart.

There is a school of thought which deliberately ignores the futility of the parliamentary system, but suggests that lobbying is good for publicity, and if you have an argument with the police in the process so much the better. Does this achieve the object of pressurising your MP to do something? I suggest no, the only thing achieving is a wasteful dissipation of energy, and what is worse disillusionment for all concerned. What will gain the objective? I suggest Direct Action on the factory floor, this is where the power lies. One of the organisations most feared by the employing class was the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) because they struck where it mattered most, at the point of production.

The miners are fed up to the teeth, once again they are in the struggle not only for better wages but their very existence. Nationalisation was to be the panacea for the mining industry, it was going to solve all their problems, not necessarily in 24 hours, but one would have thought 20 years was not an unreasonable amount of time. This has not happened; whilst it is true that nationalisation brought some benefits, the miners are no nearer controlling their industry than they ever were.

Miners now face their biggest challenge—oil, and all the powerful vested pres-

ures that go with it. I think one point should be established very clearly **the sooner all mines are closed and men no longer have to risk their lives grovelling below the earth and sea the better it will be.** But having said that, one must get down to basics on how such a policy should be carried.

The policy at the moment is a vicious one, on the basis of intense competition between oil and coal. As far as the oil monopolists are concerned the sooner the coal industry goes to the wall the better, and the Labour Government by its policy subscribes to this idea. In 1959 the Labour Party stated that to abandon coal production because of 'narrow cost margins as between coal and oil was the height of folly and for the nation economic suicide'. In 1961 again the Labour Party, 'The national interest requires the formulation of the wisest plan to ensure the preservation of our most valuable and essential asset, our coal reserves'. These are fancy phrases when in 'opposition', fine scoring points for party politics.

The miners demands are basic, security in terms of alternative employment, not vague promises in terms of closing pits and hoping to hell that something will turn up. Alternative employment before the pit is closed. A pit in the Rhondda is threatened with closure, 1,400 men threatened with unemployment, no alternative employment. The miners also demand higher pay for all day work men, all in all a national fuel policy.

On February 17 the miners not only saw their MPs but also the Minister of Power. The MPs dished out a double dose of bromide, they were sympathetic but the Minister of Power promised nothing for the future. One aspect of Government policy he did mention was a 'task force' consisting of representatives from the Coal Board, NUM and MPs whose job was to find alternative employment for miners when a pit was threatened with closure. What he didn't say was whether the pit would still be closed if alternative employment could not be found. You can bet your life if it's a question of economics the pit will close, alternative employment or not.

The miners have received their answer, they know the score if they didn't before. The remedy is in their own hands and it doesn't necessarily mean coming out on the stones.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

Inconveniencing Brass Monkeys

Continued from page 1

discriminatory against poor people. Hence he was led back to a cell pending trial, while the defence attorney vainly tried to reconcile what he learned in law school with integrity.

Schenley's answer to Clarence Darrow didn't get obstreperous again until Gil Green was brought out. Green, whose occupation was given as 'political writer', is on the staff of *The Worker*, put out by the League of Russian Empire Loyalists, as a friend describes them. As soon as he mentioned the magic words 'Smith Act conviction' he hit the jackpot for a \$500 bond. This was hastily scraped up by Ralph DiGia of the War Resisters League, and Green was released.

The finale came when Brad Lytle and Marc Edelman were arraigned. Both had announced their intentions of defending themselves. Brad didn't say much except to request the police counsel's name. (I wonder if it was

W. C. Fields.) Marc, however, a 20-year-old, is already under indictment for burning his draft card at the same demonstration at which McReynolds burned his. He immediately made a statement: 'Confronted with a form of tyranny', he went on to say that he felt he 'must speak out against it' even though he knew it might render him liable to a citation for contempt of court. Hence he wanted to protest against the 'unfair manner' in which Eric Weinberger was singled out, and that consequently he himself 'could not accept any conditions less than those given Eric Weinberger'. Thereupon he and Brad were led back to their cells on \$500 bonds.

All of this would seem to indicate that although Dave McReynolds may have been around a long time, if he ever expects to get anywhere in this civil disobedience business he ought to get a few pointers from the up and coming Marc Edelman.