

630 Conservative MPs Returned

Landslide Against the People

ONE THING MUST be made plain about the Election: there is a positive 'Law' that politicians who are expected to carry out a strong policy can always do so AGAINST the people with whom they are identified and who have elected them, and the principles with which they are most closely associated. Thus in support of this Contradictions Law, a rebel anti-militarist of the First World War, like Mr. Shinwell, could not possibly abolish conscription after the Second World War. It would possibly still be in operation had there not in the meantime been a militarist series of Ministers of War. Pacifists in power can be relied on to be ultra-militaristic. Militarists in power can afford to cut down the armed forces estimates; Tories can afford to surrender national sovereignty and, in the form of the Common Market, prepare 'to sell out to Europe'; it takes a Labour Trade Union Socialist Minister, however, to get tough with the unions and the unofficial strikers.

The Labour Party cannot, by reason of its left associations, attack the Swiss bankers or Hungarian economists so loudly as can the Tories. On much the same lines, the homosexuals in Parliament—with one or two fairly honourable exceptions—have been the loudest to denounce the bill to relieve their disabilities, or at most have been discreetly silent. In the Balfour Government, the one member of the Cabinet to dissociate himself with the plan for a 'Jewish National Home' was, of course, a Jew. If a government wish to bring in major infringements on personal liberty, they bring in somebody who has been brought up in the Liberal Party (the most reactionary Home Secretary was Sir John Simon).

During the war, it was necessary to try to bring the generals to heel. It had to be a militarist, and the job went to a Tory. The workers had to be disciplined, and so the Ministry of Labour went to the leading trade unionist, Ernest Bevin. The only exceptions to this rule have been in Ambassadorships (sending Cripps to Moscow and Hoare to Madrid was an instance). Those who imagine that by supporting one party against another

they are helping to bring in at least minor benefits or save minor bastions of personal liberty, are under a major delusion.

I am told that at least one former contributor to FREEDOM is supporting the Labour Party in a marginal constituency. Quite obviously, he expects that in a marginal seat he will be able to get marginal concessions. It would be logical perhaps to support a Tory if these marginal concessions are to be of a socialist character—but having stated this, is to state the nonsense of those whose idea of anarchism is not really anything more than a misunderstanding. At certain times anarchism may appear to be extreme anti-fascism or extreme liberalism or extreme revolutionism. It will attract those who are anti-fascist or liberal or revolutionary and want to be more so. They have not understood anarchism. One of the few useful aspects of an election is that it helps to show this. Anarchism may well be anti-fascist, support certain popular liberalistic causes, and be revolutionary; but it is anarchism. It has nothing to do with voting people into power.

The line of the comic left is, of course, 'to vote Labour in order to expose it'. This hackneyed Trotskyist line, a leftover from the days when Lenin was desperately trying to get support outside Russia and thus hallowed with the sanctity of a credo in direct apostolic succession, floats around

Continued on page 4

IS ANTI-VOTE CAMPAIGN SEDITIOUS?

LEYTON AND ILFORD Libertarian group have been distributing a leaflet urging people to spoil their ballot papers. On Saturday, March 19, they toured Leyton in a car with loud speaker and a stuffed effigy of a politician on top of the car. In Leyton the two in the car were stopped by police who told them if they went on they would be arrested firstly for behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace and secondly for sedition. They proceeded to Leytonstone, where they were again stopped by the same two policemen, also in a car, and one of whom was Inspector Smart of Leyton police, and formally cautioned under Section 52 of the Representation of the People Act, 1949, and Section 35 of the Magistrates Courts Act 1952. The Police said it was illegal to incite people to deface their ballot paper.

Ron Bailey has since spoken to Inspector Smart on the telephone and has been told that the matter has been referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The group think this is an attempt at intimidation, especially the sedition charge which they regard as ridiculous. They do not intend to stop and are going ahead next Saturday; have announced this to the local press who are very interested. If charged, say with incitement to deface the ballot papers, they intend to plead emphatically guilty and say they think this is what should be done and they would do it again.

M.C.

Defend Ilford Comrades!
Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park
Sunday, March 27, at 3.30

TEN DAYS to go before the big prize-giving, with the political climate tending to become a little warmer.

Since Parliament packed up, all the political leaders have been very busy exercising their vocal chords. We have now reached the stage where they have started to call each other nasty names, only in a gentlemanly way, a way that befits an Englishman and a gentleman.

Up until the last couple of days the general issues have been a little blurred, as was stated in last week's FREEDOM, the BMC issue was a godsend.

The new red herring that the party leaders are getting steamed up about is the Common Market. I say party leaders because Joe Soap canvassers are, and will be faced with bread and butter issues. Party leaders can prattle on as much as they like, but if you want a house or mortgage or you are a miner facing a pit closure the Common Market has as much interest for you as bloody Neptune.

Economics are always good for a mention. Heath accuses Wilson of pouring money down the drain and Wilson replies you left us a debt to the tune of so many millions of pounds and so it goes on. The

television appearances of the political brains hasn't convinced many people one way or the other. In fact the common remark is, 'As actors they deserve an Oscar, but I wouldn't trust any of them as far as I could throw them'.

In an attempt to sift the wheat from the chaff, the Tories, if they get the chance, are going to have 'a go' at the trade unions, both Hogg and Heath have made this very clear. After all the Labour Government has pointed the way.

On Rhodesia, Heath is prepared to talk to Smith and work out a compromise which means the Africans can't win. The bi-partisan policy on Rhodesia has been exposed, 'We disagree with UDI (in theory) BUT!'

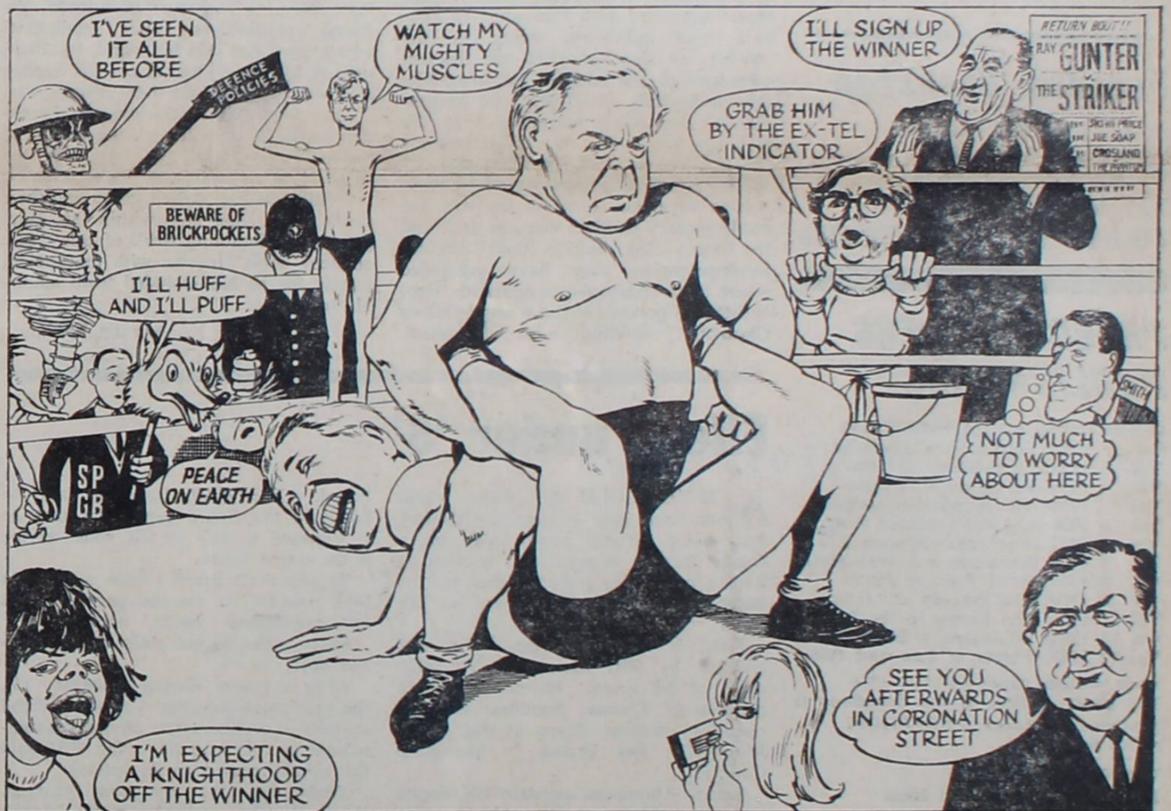
What about 'Ted' himself. The first thing that stands out a mile is that he likes 'Ted' and if there is any left over, he likes Ted some more. He is THE Conservative in this election with du Cann available to fill in any gaps. In fact, the election is all about Wilson v Heath, they have to destroy each other's image.

As always the two major parties get all the limelight with the Liberals thrown in for make-weight. Very little is said about the splinter

groups—Communist Party, Radical Alliance, ILP and nationalist parties—all aspiring to become members of the gasworks at Westminster, but one thing is certain, the Communists will claim to have done well. If you read the *Daily Worker* after the election, they will give you the total vote cast for all the CP candidates and claim this as a major victory. To be fair, they have a vivid imagination. The only snag is, they believe it themselves.

All in all the whole charade is sickening, the more it goes on the worse it gets. The national press with two exceptions, *Daily Worker* and *Sunday Citizen*, are praying for a Tory victory. If two people are talking and one it going to vote Conservative this is classified as a .000005% swing by some poll or other and is immediately relayed to Tory HQ and used as blood plasma for faint hearts. I do sympathise with the national press in one respect, it is difficult to differentiate between the various manifestos, after all it is only a Dutch Auction. Confidence tricksters get years in prison if they are caught, politicians get £3,200 a year for catching the people.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.



"Fixed fights? They went out with bows and arrows."—A well-known wrestler recently.

Harold the Conqueror

ON MARCH 16, Harold Wilson visited Birmingham's Rag Market, scene of the rowdiest meeting of the 1964 election campaign. The Rag Market was also visited by Labour supporters bearing a banner inscribed 'Harold the Conqueror—1966', a large body of Young Conservatives determined to shout Wilson down and a small body of anarchists and Committee of 100 supporters determined to heckle persistently, but intelligently.

After a quick display of all the Labour candidates in the Midlands (an inspiring event!) and speeches from lesser dignitaries, including the Home Secretary, the great man rose to speak. Despite Conservative efforts to drown him he carried on, while we interjected our comments over a loud hailer borrowed from the North West Committee of 100. Before long it became apparent that two large men in blue were closing in on either side of us, so we hastily broke up, intending to link up on the other side of the hall. The law followed our loud hailer, but lost it in the crowd. Unfor-

tunately we lost each other and a couple of us spent the rest of the meeting in the midst of a crowd of Tories, countering their cries of 'We want Heath' and the Labour ones of 'Wilson, Wilson, Wilson' with shouts of 'We don't want any of 'em!' Surprisingly, the Tories seemed to like it. One old dear loved the vulgar gestures we kept making at the platform for the benefit of the TV cameras.

As soon as the meeting finished we dashed outside and set up our sales pitch in competition with the *Worker*, *Keep Left* and all the rest. The loud hailer worked wonders in drawing attention, though four coppers appeared not to notice it. A fifth, however, descended upon us and told us we couldn't use it after 9 p.m. without permission. Upon being pressed he told us this was a by-law. I've since phoned the central police station—needless to say, there is no such by-law. If anything, his intervention helped us, as we drew even more people by announcing, 'Despite police interference we are continuing to sell FREEDOM'.

All in all the evening was one of the most successful we've had in Birmingham for a long time. But it would have been a lot more successful but for the long arm of the law looming over us and the constant barracking of the Tories. But then, perhaps it was all part of Heath's plot to silence Wilson before the electorate discovers there's no difference between them and gives them both the boot. GORDON CAUSER.

ANARCHY 62

OUT NEXT WEEK DISCUSSES

ANARCHISM AS A THEORY OF ORGANISATION

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ROUND THE GALLERIES

THESE ARE THE hysterical weeks when the rose must bow to the hot and screaming winds as the politicians and the non-politicians roar their poster jargon at an indifferent public. When truth is perverted in defence of truth, and ancient slanders are honoured as virgin philosophical revelations. When our aristocratic scum will attempt to make common cause with any slum proletariat fool enough to grasp the grey and limpid hand, and the self-proclaimed leaders of the working class will sound their h's, wash their necks, jettison their principles, and vilify their historical past in an attempt to cull the tainted votes of a whining middle class. But there is always the visual arts and when the last tattered promise and protest has found its final gutter, the silent canvas will sing of the glory within man. So damn them all.

With but hardly a single mention in the national press, the National Portrait Gallery, in Trafalgar Square, has offered the Town a magnificent exhibition of portraiture, catholic in style and subject matter, that covers a period of over three hundred years in time and with a cast that ranges from Charles I to Keir Hardie. The importance of this exhibition lies in the fact that it gives the committed spectator a rare opportunity to judge, within the confines of one small room, the work of artists working at a common task, namely the visual recording of their fellow men. As craftsmen, the work of Reynolds, Romney, Gainsborough, Van Dyck or Honthorst cannot be faulted, for their draftsmanship and their brush work are classic in its technical ability. Yet within this room one is conscious that they have failed to blow life into the gaudy clad figures that fill their canvases. One becomes all too aware of the ruddy peach bloom that illuminates each face and the artificial and indifferent stance of the subjects as they pose at the hesitant command of the talented hack for, like the technically brilliant photographs that fill the society magazines from the Queen to the Tatler, they tell us nothing of the sitter, only of the competence of the hand behind the brush or the camera.

It is when one turns to the work of contemporary painters that one is forced to accept that despite their obvious incompetencies, they have succeeded where better craftsmen have failed. Here is Sickert's portrait of the young Winston Churchill rumbling with discontent,

painted from a photograph and an occasional sitting, and first shown at the Savile Gallery in 1927. Heron's sad daub of T. S. Eliot painted in 1949 in the painter's Picasso style at a time when Heron was old enough to have regurgitated this cliché-ridden rubbish and to have attempted to paint his own paintings and not a pseudo fashionable pastiche. Henry Lamb's portrait of himself, so very amateurish yet so ably catching the reflection of the man himself, this friend of Augustus John who ran the course from a Military Cross in World War One to the role of Official War Artist in the second brawl until that final act of contempt, membership of the Royal Academy. Or James Keir Hardie as drawn by SPY for Vanity Fair (8.2.1906) for the records, there to be crystallised by the brush of Sir Leslie Ward with the judges and the fancy, the fashionable riffraff, and the clubmen, the tame rebel treading gently on the face of the past into the comfortable present. It is left to the anonymous compilers of the catalogue to describe Keir Hardie as the father-figure of the Labour movement and one feels that, with SPY, they were merely offering a superficial judgement on a matter that they felt was of slight concern to their Establishment.

But it is left to Christopher Wood to offer the finest example of the true meaning of portrait painting. This gifted primitive painter has caught within this canvas the quintessential figure of the nineteen twenties, that silly, pretty world of gay and mediocre talent, in the person of Constant Lambert for here is Constant, the embryonic minor master. Constant who began his professional career at the age of 20, who wrote for Diaghilev's Russian Ballet, worked with Ninette de Valois at the Wells, and happily played the piano, during the wartime tours, for the lads. Constant who adopted Elizabethan comedy for chorus and turned Purcell into ballet until he reached his artistic pinnacle by creating Rio Grande complete with 'chorus, orchestra, piano and jazz' around the dying cadences of Sacheverell Sitwell's wordfest. And here he is, caught at the age of nineteen, like unto a painted fly upon a pin, so very smug, so very sure of himself, the young middle-class minor intellectual who knows that it is his world, for there will always be a market for his ragbag of divergent gifts and there always was.

Only poor Kit Wood had no alternative wares to offer the paying public of those tawdry days, so for him the suicide's grave and this brutal, clumsy, brilliant painting is their credo and their death song. And here within this quiet gallery the fumbling work of this tragic amateur holds his own with the ancient master for he has included truth among his tools.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

File it under 'S'

A 20-YEAR-OLD Big Lake youth was being held in Hennepin County Jail under \$10,000 bond today on a charge that he dumped two buckets of human excrement into the files of the Sherburne County draft board at Elk River.

Held is Barry Bondhus, who was arrested by FBI agents on Thursday night at his home. He is one of 12 children of Thomas Bondhus, 43, who operates machine shops at Big Lake, Monticello, and Orrock in Sherburne County.

Sidney Abramson, assistant US district attorney, said the youth would be given a hearing today before US Commissioner Bernard Zimpfer in Minneapolis Federal Court.

The arrest of the youth apparently climaxed a series of difficulties he and his father have had with the draft

board. The elder Bondhus said he has told the Board repeatedly that he is opposed to any of his sons serving in the armed forces.

'If you draft Barry I have nothing to look forward to for the next 24 years but flag-draped caskets,' he said.

Barry is the second oldest of 10 Bondhus boys.

After a board hearing (February 15), the youth was classified I-A and ordered to take a pre-induction physical examination in Minneapolis. The FBI said the youth refused to co-operate.

Wednesday, the complaint charged, young Bondhus walked into the board's office and dumped the substance into six draft board file cases. His draft board status is still pending.

—From the Minneapolis Star, February 25, 1966.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

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.

MAR. 27 Philip Sansom Singing and Talking the News

APR. 3 AFB Conference, Birmingham Individualist Conference(?) London

APR. 10 Meeting, Conway Hall See Contact Column

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.

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 M. Dey, 29 Springhill Crescent, 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, Barnehurst, Kent.

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

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

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike Gowley, 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.

Anarchist Federation Annual Conference

PROPOSED FINAL AGENDA

First Session. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, April 2, 1966.

Place: The 'La Boheme' Coffee Bar (Upper Room), Aston Street, Gosta Green, Birmingham 4 (opposite rear of Central Fire Station).

1. Opening of Meeting and Selection of Chairman for the Sessions.
2. Minutes of Annual Conference held in 1965.
3. Matters arising from the Minutes.
4. Report of the National Secretariat.
5. Reports of the Groups within the Federation.
6. Matters arising from the above Reports.
7. Future of the Anarchist Federation of Britain.
8. Election of Secretariat (if considered necessary).

Social. 7 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. at the 'Salutation' Public House (Upper Room), at junction of Snow Hill, Constitution Hill and Summer Lane, Birmingham 4.

Admission 5/- to cover the costs of the conference—singers, musicians and other artistes especially welcome—pies, sandwiches and drinks extra (a special bar and buffet is being provided).

Second Session. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (sharp), Sunday April 3, 1966.

Place: The 'Marquee' Club, corner of Navigation Street and Hill Street, Birmingham 5 (adjacent to New Street Station). (Note: Licensed Bar open all day, and red and black decor.)

1. Publications and Propaganda.
2. Sabotage and other forms of action.
3. Easter March.
4. Other Anarchist and Peace Action (including Education, Industry, Community Action, Vietnam, etc.).
5. Future Contact and Meetings.
6. Any Other Business (including Motions not already discussed).

ACCOMMODATION.

As advertised in FREEDOM some accommodation is available and we request those requiring it to write to Martin Bragg, 5 Gladstone Road, Erdington, Birmingham 23, as soon as possible. Please bring either a sleeping-bag or blankets, cup and cutlery. Those not writing in advance will be accommodated only if sufficient accommodation is available. We could of course book a hall but numbers writing in at the moment do not indicate this will be necessary. Comrades who arrive at the last moment may, however, find themselves disappointed. Comrades arriving Friday night should notify ETA.

COMMENT.

When we forwarded our 'Provisional Agenda' to FREEDOM, we did so in the anticipation we had covered every subject likely to have interested our comrades and hoped there would be sufficient constructive suggestions from individuals and groups for us to see what matters were uppermost in people's minds. We were therefore a little dismayed to find we were taken quite literally and while most comrades condemned the length of the agenda, few made any specific suggestions. What we have done is, therefore, to take the most burning subjects and put these on the second day, leaving plenty of room for other matters to be raised in AOB. On the first day we will have the opportunity of having a look at the year's progress on the part of both Federation and Groups. We shall be able to see from these reports the areas of common interest and decide how any future national or regional interest may be served through the Federation as a vehicle for action. We can then structure the Federation accordingly.

We do not, however, wish to force our views or any particular line on the conference, and it is entirely up to the conference to decide whether or not to accept the proposed agenda. However we must make one thing clear to participants in the conference. It was decided at the last conference, in London, that the Federation was a federation of autonomous groups and had no individual membership. Therefore we must stress that the views expressed at the conference are not personal views, but the agreed views of each autonomous group within the Federation. Also those who, for one reason or another, have written to say they want certain motions proposed as individuals should, when proposing these views at the conference, make it clear whether the motions are, or are not, collective views.

As an individual might I tactfully suggest to my comrades that they do not propose

actions or lines of conduct that they themselves are unwilling to follow or pay for if these have any financial cost.

We look forward to meeting delegates, representatives, observers, and individual members of the groups, and hope their stay in Birmingham over the conference period will be as rewarding to them as it will be to Birmingham, Coventry and Stoke Groups.

Salut.

PETER NEVILLE.

P.S.: Please note we would also welcome fraternal delegates from outside the Federation, as observers.

MEMORANDUM on other items

THERE IS WIDESPREAD agreement that the Nuclear Disarmament Easter Marches have lost impact—since the first—to the extent that they have become submerged in the conventional Labour Party and Communist Left.

In the past the rank and file has spontaneously attempted (not always successfully) to put impact back into the March.

We propose this year that the Anarchists and others plan radical action to counteract the influence of the Labour politicians; find some means in conjunction with other rank and file campaigners to make the demonstration an open challenge to the Wilson Government and to reassert the need to force Governments to disarm.

—Tony Cadman, Danny Clayton, Michael Darmody, Martin Gilbert, Mark Hendy, Paul Hickling, Michael and Pamela Hill, Pam Hillier, Terry Liddle, Celia and Laurens Otter, R. Ower, Martin Page, Mike Perry, Roger Sandell, Karl Taylor.

Outpoints London Group: Graham Moss. 'If completed, to read a paper on "Anarchism and Parliament: a way of tackling the problem".'

Glasgow Group: Alex Howie. (1) 'That this conference looks at the Aims and Principles of the Syndicalist Workers Federation and see if they can be adopted in part or their entirety.'

(2) 'That this conference looks at the relationship of the Anarchist Movement with the Peace Movement.'

Peter Neville (as an individual). 'That this conference looks at the place of the anarchist movement outside the context of the Peace Movement to see whether or not it has any existence outside the journals and talking shops, or whether the anarchist movement is merely the creation of some inactive joker's imagination.' P.N.

POLICE PROJECT 66

ON MONDAY, March 14 Douglas Kepper and David Boughton appeared before the magistrates court at Hendon in North London, charged with 'Trespassing on London Transport Property' (reported in FREEDOM).

In court the two London Transport policemen admitted that they had been sent to Edgware Station on that occasion 'specially' but would not state why they had been sent.

Witnesses were produced by London Transport who appeared to have nothing to do with the case.

Both Douglas Kepper and David Boughton were found guilty and fined £5 and £5 5s. costs. They both gave notice of appeal, only to discover that in this 'court' copies of appeal forms were not to be obtained and that they had to be purchased from a commercial firm in Central London.

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.

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Mr. Karl Taylor, 98 Clova Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7 (MAR 0367) Meetings every Wednesday.

PROPOSED GROUPS

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

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. Anyone interested get in touch with Bob Yorke, 69 Grumbold Road, Raunds, Wellingborough, Northants.

SCARBOROUGH. Any anarchist-minded persons please contact John B. Feetenby, 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.

Sermon on the Alps

The recent article in FREEDOM about the children's campaign to safeguard their natural playground (called the Alps or The Old Dump and now known as Tammoland) was noticed by a reader who is a teacher in the neighbourhood. We are printing below his account of his own efforts with regard

'Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.'

—Deuteronomy 1.39

I USED THIS as a text for the 'house assembly' when it was my turn—about once a term—to give a talk or preach a sermon to a couple of hundred boys who were preached at most school days.

Mostly the words are just air. As much stir as a stone thrown in treacle they cause. Occasionally a boy or two comes up to some other teacher to ask about what old — said.

It was badly timed. I lost the text and the housemaster was tongue-lashingly furious about the strewn litter; and the half-eaten sandwiches dropped inside desks in an open access room.

I began. Heads down and that tiny mutter of sound that indicates the usual 'O' 'zero' real attention. Tammoland is mentioned. A private place for children. No adults and not like a park. Some heads began to lift. I go on. 'Every place should belong to you. But it

to this matter. The children have also been very active. They have marched with their petition to the town hall and formed their own committee! The article from FREEDOM was reprinted as a leaflet and was well received. 'Parents and children have been discussing it and are asking for more copies,' said Tammo de Jongh of St. Pancras Civic Society.

doesn't feel as if it does. It belongs to the council, the keepers, the teacher—not you. In the parks you're bigger and less controllable dogs. The silence of real attention and dawning understanding. 'Make a fuss. Act yourselves. Write letters. Plague the candidates.'

I go on about Harrison's Rocks and how difficult to make non-climbers keep it clean. 'Feel it's yours and you'll look after it.' Children learn to look after things if it's theirs; if they don't, they make adult litter louts. The Headmaster's loudspeaker cut me short.

Some came up to me afterwards and a group want to do something. A first early lesson in civics. Find the candidates, the planning officer, the MP, and find bigwigs and names who'll side with you. Then start asking and arguing. Don't be fobbed off.

This might be a successful lesson. I wish there were someone to help follow it up. I'm no real politico. I like climbing mountains and studying China and the Chinese; I don't teach 'Social Studies' even. But this could be one very, very good 'project'. Anyone else having a go?

ALEC TAYLOR.

Violence is Violence

Dear Comrades, I honestly don't understand Dennis Gould. I wouldn't put a uniform on either, but if my life depended upon killing another person, I'd kill him, or her. Violence is violence. Knocking people out is just as much violent, however preferable, to killing. There is also a case for killing if some fascist-minded bastard tried to sabotage a successful workers' revolution. One is forced to accept that 'elected' workers' militias will be needed to defend any revolution. As to poetry, poetry is to revolution what masturbation is to sex. Perhaps if the follow-the-leader-worker met Dennis, they may change.

Fraternally,

Liverpool, 13 V. JOHNSON.

HEY!

WEEK 11, MARCH 19, 1966:
Expenses: 11 weeks at £80: £880
Income: Sales and Subs.: £462
DEFICIT £418

London: West London Community £1; Cornwall: D.T. 4/3; Oxford: Anon* 5/-; Northolt: Anarchist Group* 3/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; Sevenoaks: B.R. 17/6; London, S.W.2: B.L. 19/-; Plymouth: D.L. 2/6; Doncaster: J.C. 1/-; Hartfield: D.M. 15/-; Ohio: T. & D.H. £18/-; Kent: M.G.H. 4/-; Cheshire: L.A. 2/6.

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1966 Total to Date £226 11 10

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'How to Win on the Election' by Tom Hope

CONSERVATIVE AND LIBERAL candidates in Stretford, Manchester, were allocated in error the same telephone number by the GPO. The Labour candidate at Baron's Court, London, claimed that the Conservative candidate had stolen a phrase from his election leaflet. The phrase, following the candidate's committee room address, is 'Your offer of help and contribution to the fighting fund welcomed at this address'. The Labour agent said, 'I'm not annoyed, but I'm baffled. They've obviously copied our pamphlet.' A Conservative spokesman, according to the *West London Observer*, said it was nothing more than pure coincidence. 'This wording has been used by us in previous elections,' he said.

THE DAILY WORKER coyly notes on Tuesday, 'Readers who responded to a recent request in the Forum for old copies of the *Daily Worker* to be sent to an address in Ghana should note that no further copies should be sent there.' In the same issue it prints, unobtrusively, an appeal from the deposed Dr. Nkrumah reading, 'I call upon those loyal sections of my armed forces and police officers to identify themselves with the masses and prepare the way to destroy these rebellious traitors and stooges of colonialism.' On Thursday the *Worker* printed a paragraph, 'The employers' organisation, the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday adopted a report suggesting the time was again ripe to trade with Ghana.' On Friday the *Worker* announced that the Soviet Union had recognised the new government of Ghana.

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE of the French Communist Party made a motion banning 'the pretension of laying down the law in the domain of culture' and also 'all dogmatic conceptions of culture'. It further emphasised that 'artistic creations cannot be imagined without research, without cross-currents, without different schools of thought, and without their being contrasted one with another.' They also invited their members to shake hands with Christians, and not only with Christian workers. The British Communist Party accused Rediffusion Television of attacking the Communist Party in religious programmes by Douglas Hyde in which Mr. Hyde stated 'that a good Christian cannot be a Communist. Such a statement can only have the object of dissuading Christians from voting Communist.'

A 22-YEAR-OLD MALE DANCER with the Hungarian National Ballet and Folk Ensemble has asked for asylum in the United States.

MR. STEPHEN DENNISON was awarded \$115,000 damages by the New York Court of Claims for being wrongly branded as a moron and locked in a State lunatic asylum for twenty-four years. Mr. Dennison said after the hearing, 'I'm not mad at anybody.'

DREW PEARSON, the American news commentator, said that the riots in Watts (Los Angeles) on Tuesday happened

An Appeal

Dear Friends, A few of you know me, most of you don't. My name is Catherine Swann and I'm 21. My associations in England were with the Catholic Disarmament Group—a branch of the National CND, the Anti-Apartheid Movement, and the Pax Society. Before I came to the Catholic Worker almost a year ago, I worked with the London County Council children's department in several residential homes—in Harlow and Stevenage New Towns, and Islington and Poplar, London.

You will surely ask why didn't I stay in England and open a house. My answer is that I didn't know how to begin so I thought the best way to learn was to come here and learn from the CW's 33 years of experience. I have learned a lot in the past year and now want to branch out and open an extension of the Catholic Worker here, in the city.

I have rented a storefront a few blocks away from the Christie Street House, and some friends and I are fixing it up to make a place for a few neighbourhood children to play. The children are those of Puerto Rican immigrants who come to the States hoping to find a land flowing with milk and honey, but find themselves ghettoed in slum areas, where they live with as many as 8 or 10 children each, in 4- or 5-room apartments. The children have little place to play and no quiet in which to do

a few hours after Governor Brown of California had been told by Mr. Sargent Shriver (who is in charge of the Federal anti-poverty programme) that he could have no money to relieve Negro unemployment in Watts since the expenses of the war in Vietnam had shortened his funds.

IN VIETNAM several South Vietnamese irregular troops were shot and killed by US servicemen when they tried to climb aboard an overloaded helicopter evacuating wounded from a besieged special forces camp over-run by the NLF. The United States Information Service states that the removal of General Nguyen Chanh Thi, commander of Vietnam's First Corps, will be 'a step in the direction of greater stability'. It was felt in these [American] quarters that the action against him was the result of the Vietnamese Government's own sense of confidence'. Ta Vinh, a Chinese businessman convicted of profiteering, was executed by a South Vietnamese firing-squad, watched by his wife and eight children. The *Financial Times* correspondent believes that there is a new confidence in Saigon shown by the recent dismissal of Nguyen Chanh Thi and the trial and execution of Ta Vinh, unless 'the hitherto quiescent Buddhist throw their political weight behind the protest' [against the dismissal]. In Hue 7,000 demonstrators supported Buddhist demands for an elected civilian government.

THE HEADMISTRESS of Cheltenham Ladies College stated in an interview in the *Evening Standard*, 'I would like a girl when she leaves to be lively, enthusiastic, outward looking, someone with a zest for life who is interested in politics and world affairs. In other words, not self-centred, finding the world interesting, if arduous.' However, for the time being the school rules state 'A boarder may not visit friends unless her parents know them and have sanctioned arrangements in a letter to the house mistress. . . . Girls are not allowed to travel inside public conveyances, nor may they visit cinemas and theatres, except with special permission of the principal.'

MR. JAMES DILLON in the Irish Dail blamed the blowing up of the Nelson Pillar on 'a cheap bunch of anarchists who had made the country a by-word before the world'. Mr. Dillon further said, 'When I see our country teetering on the verge of bankruptcy, and at the same time a little rump of anarchists can go down to the centre of this city and blow up the Nelson Pillar, while the Guards are bustling around putting traffic tickets on their neighbours' motor cars, I begin to ask myself what has gone wrong with the Republic to which we're all so proud to belong.'

LONDON LIFE credits the anarchists with the ambition to use dextro-lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) as a weapon to take over the country.

MEANWHILE, THE *X and Racing Post* writes, 'During the rest of this month

LETTER

their homework. The city won't expend the energy to do anything about it, so it is plainly up to the individual to do whatever he can. My dream is that more of these centres will be opened—without the help of the city, financial or otherwise, that they will be supported initially by friends, and readers of the CW who have a special interest in children (general CW funds are not being used for any part of this project) and hopefully that eventually they will become self-supporting units within the Puerto Rican community. I also intend taking groups of the children up to our farm in Tivoli, NY, a project I started last summer.

You will have guessed by now the reason why I am writing to you! It would be great if the first unit were supported by the English readers of the CW, sort of an Englishman's mission to the Lower East Side of New York. I am not ashamed to beg—it isn't I who need somewhere to play, so please will you help me?

English cheques and postal orders are not valid over here. So please, if you have something to give, may I ask you to do it in one of these ways. Either send English cash, cheques or postal orders to my mother, Mary Swann, at 29 Billbrook Road, Hucclecote, Gloucester, and she will transfer it to me here. Or use international money orders obtainable at any post office. Or transfer through direct from your bank to my account at the First National City Bank, at Grand Street, Bowery, NYC.

In Peace and Love,

CATHERINE M. SWANN.

- X and Racing Post

the focus of attention will be on the General Election. And among others I intend to make a profit out of it.

Leading bookmakers are offering odds against the over-all majorities obtained by the parties. A Labour majority of 1-10 seats pays 25-1, 11-20 seats pays 20-1 and so on.

'Figures are also given for a Conservative majority.

'I'm banking on a Labour win of between 11 and 40 seats. The current quotations are:

11-20 seats 20-1
21-30 seats 16-1
31-40 seats 12-1

'A stake of £3 11s. is laid on the three individual bets so that if either is right the return will be the same.

'It is calculated like this: One point is added to each price and all three figures are multiplied to obtain the common denominator. (20-1 becomes 21; 16-1 becomes 17 and 12-1 becomes 13).

21 x 17 x 13 = 4,641

'Now divide the denominator by the three prices, inclusive of the extra point.

'If the first bet wins at 20-1 the profit, less losing stakes on the other two bets will be £15 15s. 10d. If the second bet at 16-1 succeeds the return will also be £15 15s. 10d. A win on the third bet at 12-1 will return the same profit.

'The total stake can be cut by a third if needed. Stake 6/- at 20-1; 8/- at 16-1 and 10/- at 12-1.

'The return will not be exactly the same ratio, but it will collect over a fiver, if one of the chosen forecasts succeed.

'No matter which three quotations are backed, the three bets can consist of mixed Conservative and Labour majorities if needed. The return will always be consistent if one of the selections win.

'The rules are simple:

- 1) Select three majorities and add one point to each price.
- 2) Multiply the three figures.
- 3) Divide the total in turn by each price with the point added.
- 4) Stake on each price less the added point.

SOMEbody 'won' the World Football Cup.

ION QUIXOTE.

REVIEW

The Golden Convolvulus

The Golden Convolvulus edited by Arthur Moysie (Screes Publications, 11 Clematis Street, Blackburn, 2/-). (Not supplied by post.)

THIS is the small collection of writings gleaned from lavatory walls and other places which was the subject of a recent trial in Lancashire. The result, perhaps surprisingly was a moral victory for the defence, one of whose witnesses was a Benedictine monk. Why this particular humble publication was chosen to have a prosecution instigated against it remains a mystery. Yet the existence of this pamphlet raises the whole question of pornography.

Pornography is a sickness and to turn it into a cult does more harm even than to suppress it. It is the final solution of the wrong attitude to sex. And the wrong attitude to sex is the most dangerous fifth column inside the community. It is more of an enemy to living properly on this earth than anything else on this earth. And after all living properly on this earth is what anarchism is all about.

It all started when man first made the terrible mistake of thinking that sex was dirty. That heresy has caused more lives to be broken than any inquisition or gestapo. There is no use blaming the Old Testament and the Christians, without making any claims to scholarship, it exists and existed beyond and before their jurisdictions. The answer to pornography is love, as it is the answer to all tyranny.

There is one really magnificent poem in this collection, 'The Virgin Mary' by Norman Iles. It is quite factually one of the few really first rate poems this reviewer has read during the last ten years that was not the work of a poet already justly famous. To repeat, the poem is called 'The Virgin Mary', and is by Norman Iles, as the pages are not numbered I cannot tell you which page it is on. But it jumps out of this collection like a diamond jumps out of a handful of gravel. There is also another good poem, i.e., a poem that really is a poem, and not just some words and a few punctuation marks, by Padraig O'Broin. It is called 'Ritual'. As if to prove the point of this review these two poems have nothing whatsoever to do with pornography.

PAUL POTTS.

Stay-up Highlights Workers' Struggle

THE FOUR BUILDING workers who staged a stay-up strike on the job of a 250 ft. tower crane have highlighted their particular dispute. Their action, whether spontaneous or planned, was very successful, achieving what was intended by creating publicity and drawing attention to a struggle between workers and management which had been going on for some time. These men took action over bonus earnings and redundancies.

Taylor Woodrow are the contractors for the job in Leadenhall Street, which consists of a 27 storey office block for the Commercial Union Assurance Company. Adjacent to this, they are building another office block, this time for the P. & O. Line.

The stay-up strike has been, in fact, the culmination of a long series of disputes with the Taylor Woodrow management, who are really annoyed because the men on the Commercial Union site have built up a strong militant union organisation. This has enabled them to get the highest wages and the best conditions possible. The

management tried to break up this organisation by transferring four steel fixers onto the adjacent P. & O. site, a typical move by building firm managements, but it did not come off. After a ten day unofficial strike, these men were back on their original job.

The steel fixers had negotiated bonus targets which gave them some very high earnings without breaking into a sweat, which is, after all, how it should be. Taylor Woodrow realised their mistake, but it was too late. However, the carpenters were not in such a good position and because they were split up into two gangs, one for the tower block and the other for the rest of the site, there were substantial differences in pay between them. All the 'chippies' started banning all overtime in an effort to secure equal bonus earnings. The management countered by putting the whole site on a basic 41-hour week in order, so they said, to balance out the different trade work schedules. However, they asked the electricians to work overtime, but this was refused.

STEWARDS CONSTANTLY WATCHED

The management then began to tighten the screws. John Curran, chairman of the Works Committee said, 'Then pressure was put on the steel fixers who, it was claimed, were not working hard enough. Foremen kept a constant watch on them.' They sacked Gordon Emberson, a steward, who retaliated by parading with posters and picketing the management's offices on the site. At a disputes panel, the sacking was changed to suspension with pay pending an inquiry.

Gordon Emberson told me that the stewards were watched constantly. If they went anywhere they had to get the foreman's permission and if they were seen away from their job, they were closely questioned. On one occasion two shop stewards, after asking permission in accordance with the rule book, left the job to phone the union district office. On their return they were sacked, only to be reinstated when the management realised their mistake.

The week before the stay-up strike, it looked as though the union officials, the shop stewards and the management had come to an agreement to return to full working on the original terms. On the following Monday, it appeared that the management's version of the agreement differed from that of the others and they said that the carpenters and steel fixers on the tower block would have their bonus cut from about £30 to £15 per week.

It was this turnabout that led to the stay-up strike.

After the men came down on Tuesday night they were sacked, followed by 65 other men including John Curran. Following the failure to get these men reinstated, the rest of the 250 workers on the site have come out on strike. The *Financial Times* noted that 'the dispute is the latest of a long series of incidents which have plagued City building sites in recent years, including the giant Paternoster scheme and Barbican projects'.

SUPPORT FROM OTHER JOBS

A steward told me on Tuesday night that he expected a full stoppage of work by the rest of the job, for the men had shown tremendous solidarity before and were militant and determined to get all the sacked men reinstated. He said that the Works Committee had tried, with little success, particularly from the adjacent P. & O. site, to link up with other jobs of Taylor Woodrow and their subsidiary, Myton Ltd. Now I am glad to see that the attitude has changed and the P. & O. site has taken token strike action in solidarity with their brothers across the way. Messages of support have also come from the Myton job at Colliers Wood, where carpenters are on strike over victimisation, and there is a strong possibility of supporting action from other Taylor Woodrow jobs.

There is no doubt, and this has been illustrated by the Turriff's Barbican dispute, that job organisation on sites in London is very strong and managements are extremely worried by this. It would be advisable to consider asking for sympathy action similar to that given during that Barbican dispute if it is necessary to fight for the reinstatement of these men.

On the face of it, it might be thought that these men are only concerned with improvement of their wages and conditions, but this is not so. Last Autumn two men were killed on the Commercial Union site, both leaving wives and children. Taylor Woodrow's, who according to their signs put 'safety first', gave the widows £300 each. The men organised a collection on their own site and throughout the major jobs in London, with generous response. At Christmas, they organised raffles, with some of the money collected being used to buy toys for the fatherless children and the rest given to a Home for orphaned children in Margate, to be used to buy them Christmas presents.

P.T.

Freedom For Workers' Control

MARCH 26 1966 Vol 27 No 10

Law & the Unions

IT'S FASHIONABLE these days for the unions to tangle with the law, maybe it's the sign of things to come. This time it's the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers (AUBTW). This dispute began on May 31 last year when the AUBTW called out its members working for a 'labour only' contractor, Emerald Construction Co. Ltd. The union demanded that the main contractor Higgs and Hill employed the men directly.

Last December an order was sought by the Emerald Construction Company to prevent the AUBTW taking industrial action. They failed to obtain the order and appealed. On March 7 their appeal was heard and found, in a reserved judgment, in favour of the employers. The Appeal Court ruled that the AUBTW officials must not attempt to bring about the termination of contract between Emerald Construction and Higgs and Hill. The union officials were refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords. The AUBTW immediately removed their pickets. This decision from the Court of Appeal is very important because it means that even if a union is only aware that a contract exists they can be accused of an unlawful procuring of a break. Whereas before only if unions had details of a contract could they be stopped from procuring a break.

It all sounds very involved but the law's decision certainly ties the union's hands. AUBTW policy is to drive 'labour only' contractors off all building sites. This affair makes it that much harder, 'officially' of course.

BEHIND A LADY'S SKIRT

PROVINCIAL MUNICIPAL BUS employers have slid very smoothly behind the skirt of the Wages & Incomes Board when they refused a pay claim by 70,000 bus drivers and conductors. The claim, which is similar to the de-

mand made to London Transport, had already been referred to the PIB by George Brown.

The municipal employers are now saying of course that there can be no settlement until after the PIB has reported, only then will they talk to the unions. The PIB certainly provides the employers with an 'out' and keeps things all nice and legal like.

The bus section of public transport is chaotic, the time can't be very far off when rank and file busmen from all over the country will blow the whole lot sky high.

BIG BROTHER

FOUR THOUSAND motor workers walked out of a factory in Birmingham on Friday in protest of the action taken by the employers security police.

An AEU member was detained for over an hour whilst the works police searched his bag and his locker. The search revealed nothing and the member was given neither an explanation nor an apology. The AEU are demanding the dismissal of the police involved.

This 'security' lark is becoming a very profitable business, odd security companies are shooting up all over the place. Ostensibly it is for the protection of property, the employers property, but their scope goes far wider than that, one particular firm even advertises the fact that it will expose industrial trouble makers as part of its contract. How else can employers effectively operate their 'black list'?

I wonder if it is part of Tory industrial policy to legislate against that lot, but of course, the employer still has the right of hire and fire and the militants are the undesirables in industry, they are the boys who prevent our country from being great—a great what—I'll never know.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

Contact Column

Meeting. Why anarchists are on the march. Conway Hall meeting, Easter Sunday. For democrats who don't know and anarchists who may not. Look out for speakers and details. Organized by an Anarchist Group. Speakers: Robert Barltrop, Donald Room, Philip Sansom.

Oxan. Second issue now ready produced by Oxford Anarchist Group and Oxon Federation. 60 pp. 1/6 plus 7d. postage from Tony J. Pitcher, Merton College, Oxford. Donations welcome to meet loss on first issue.

Accommodation. Flat or rooms required in London area (preferably unfurnished) by teacher and wife. For one-year period from September. P. and M. Ford, 102 Stottford Road, Arlesey, Beds.

Stickers for Election. 'ANARCHISTS SAY DON'T VOTE'; 'DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON APRIL 1st'. Each 3/- per hundred. 17a Maxwell Road, S.W.6.

Social. 'The Wolf', Southall (232 or 195 from Town Hall), 8 p.m., Saturday, March 26. La Vida Jazz Band. Southall Anarchist Group.

Accommodation Vacant. One bunk empty—happy, tolerant girl wanted in s/c flat, in lowest Lambeth, details REL 5224.

Anti-Election Leaflets. Why Vote! It gets you nowhere. 2/6 a 100 from 17a Maxwell Road, Fulham, S.W.6.

Northern 'Scene'. International Centre, 64 George Street, Manchester, March 26, 2-5 p.m., 6-10.45 p.m. 4/- entrance. Poets free.

Teachers. Would anyone interested in the idea of a Libertarian or Anarchist Teachers' Association write: A. W. Taylor, Basement Flat 1A, 10 St. Georges Terrace, N.W.1.

Anti-Election Meeting. Anti-election campaign in Birmingham, March 12/13, 19/20, 26/27. Meet at 5 Gladstone Road, Erdington, Birmingham 23, 2.30 p.m. on Saturdays, 10.30 a.m. on Sundays. Further information from Gordon Causar, 27 Upper Gun-

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Landslide Against the People

Continued from page 1
the lunatic fringe who 'bore the Labour Party from within' and everybody else from without. The most extreme case was one group that declared itself opposed to 'boring within' but decided that it would have a United Front with the Labour Party (without the latter's knowledge) so that it could be 'exposed'. The group itself was 'exposed'. After the Labour Party was elected, it wound itself up (and the United Front with it).

It is very easy in time of election to say—rents, Vietnam, nuclear bomb, this, that and the other. . . . DO something about it. . . . VOTE . . . and never mind what for, so long as you do. The only excuse we can offer for a DON'T VOTE campaign is that this is equally effective or ineffective; here is something to 'DO' about it, and it will be neither more nor less useful than voting. At least it enables one to have the comfortable feeling afterwards

of saying—'Don't blame me, I didn't vote'. Which, we agree, is small consolation after the bomb has dropped, but is the best that can be offered in the context of a General Election. The positive things we can do are to be found in a vastly different context.

We can hardly deal with these things to the once-every-five-years man or woman whose knowledge of anarchism comes to him the first time when he or she sees a sticker on the tube saying, surprisingly, 'Don't vote!' To that dabbler in public affairs, we are after all only the odd few out, as we are at Coronation time and no doubt would be at Christmas time if we did not comfort ourselves with the knowledge that it is on old pagan pre-Christian festival.

We are the 'will not voters'—which in one recent opinion poll reached 3%, but who knows the reason why people do NOT vote?—ranging from the dictates of conscience to the pressing needs

MASS SACKINGS AHEAD

WHEN INDUSTRIAL correspondents casually mention potential methods of actions to the employers, it is time for the militants to pay attention. Much of what they write is often based on knowledge of decisions which they know are already taken or are about to be taken. The *Sunday Times* Industrial Correspondent (20.3.66) suggests to Taylor Woodrow that there is only one

way that they can deal with site-labour that is getting the upper hand—MASS SACKINGS. Shut down the job and restart it several months later. In the past this action has been successful on the part of the employers, and will be successful if it is attempted this time. The only way to really beat the employers at this game is to have every site in London, and if possible elsewhere, organised. If the employers shut down one site then the men must be able to shut down the lot.

Although the article names the London Joint Sites and their chairman, Jim Hiles, as being responsible for unrest on big jobs recently, it is praise slightly more than is its due. Although sympathy can be felt for stewards working all day and having to deal with union affairs on top, it is because more effort is needed to involve the mass of workers in extending the work of the Joint Sites. It needs leaflets and pickets and work from the ordinary building worker to make the Joint Sites really effective. Otherwise the Joint Sites will have good cause to regret their missed opportunities if Taylor Woodrow shut down the St. Mary-les-Aux site. Only genuine effort to extend the Joint Sites throughout London will make the employers realise it is futile to victimize men and start mass sackings. There are many organised jobs in London outside the London Joint Sites. They need to be brought into co-operation immediately. Otherwise the ordinary worker is in for another kick in the crutch. It is no good sitting back mesmerised to watch it coming.

INTERNATIONALIST.

SPARKS.