

# NINE DAYS THAT SHOOK THE TUC

BY SOME FREAK of Socialist planning the workers' holiday, May Day, fell on a day off (Sunday) this year, this is the only sign of a restoration of May Day to its former position. According to the *Guardian* (22.4.66), Birmingham and Mexborough have abandoned their May Day processions this year, joining Wigan and Blackburn. The sad rituals will take place at Hyde Park at 3 p.m. and in Moscow's streets the usual parade of workers' might will take place.

It has not always been like this. Indeed on May 1, 1926, the decision was taken to call the General Strike in Britain which was held by some (of the left) to have made the ruling classes tremble, by some (of the right) to have made the working-class shiver in their shoes; a more close examination might show it to be the nine days that shook the Trade Union Congress.

The Strike started on May 4 and concluded on May 12. Eighty-six unions were out on strike, only three unions blacklegged—The Electrical Power Engineers' Association, National Union of Journalists (but the members did not join in; in any case the printers were on strike), and the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union. The latter union, under Havelock Ellis, was responsible for the Astbury judgement. The President of the Sailors' Union secured an injunction against a branch who were on strike to restrain them from striking. The Judge (Astbury) gave it as his opinion that the General Strike was illegal and granted the injunction.

This gave Sir John Simon his cue for a learned dissertation on the illegality of the Strike which scared the pants off the TUC who had entered the Strike in fear and trembling.

The Strike was called on the noblest motives, to support the miners who had been penalized by the withdrawal of the coal subsidy and the consequent demands of the coal owners for longer hours and shorter pay packets. It was precipitated by the refusal of the typesetters to set an article criticizing the demands of the TUC. It was ended by a concession by the Government to set up a negotiation committee to reconsider the miners' case.

The TUC called off the General Strike, which was by no means complete and was about to be joined by two more unions; the employers, seeing their chance forced through in some cases (particularly that of the railways) vicious terms for reinstatement.

The Strike started with the bang of Mr. Ernest Bevin. 'We look upon your "Yes" as meaning that you have placed your all upon the altar for this great Movement, and having placed it there, even if every penny goes, if every asset goes, history will ultimately write that it was a magnificent generation that was prepared to do it rather than see the miners driven down like slaves'. The miners' lock-out dragged on for seven months after the end of the General Strike. Ernest Bevin, as far as one knows died with all his assets.

It was this delicate point of the unions' assets and the possibility of their

confiscation which really worried the leaders in 1926.

Examination of the histories of the Strike shows that whilst the Government had taken measures to defend itself against the Strike (setting up a paramilitary organisation of supplies—OMS—well in advance), the TUC had made no preparations. The talent of groups of workers for improvisation was noticeable and could doubtless have carried the Strike forward for many more days, even weeks; but this they were not asked to do.

One forms the impression that although the Strike was wanted by the employers as a display of their strength, it was reluctantly haggled into by the unions as they knew it would be a demonstration of their weaknesses. The Strike was, in fact, not defeated, it was never fully extended.

True, it had revolutionary implications but, in the main, both sides had a gentleman's agreement and it was never taken too far. Issues of the *British Worker* are full of advice on restraint and testimonies from police chiefs of the good behaviour of the strikers. The most notorious incident took place at Plymouth when the strikers played football with the police. An anarchist was heard to mutter when told of this 'I'd have played football... with a policeman's head!'

But it is possible that this non-violence on the part of the majority of the strikers was a concession from strength, not from weakness. On the other hand, vicious sentences were imposed upon left-wing propagandists for spreading information — and rumours about the Strike.

The TUC had not reckoned with the revolutionary implications of a complete General Strike and hesitated upon the brink. The merest hint that they were challenging the constitution—which they were—gave Jimmy Thomas and Ramsay MacDonald the fanits and gave Winston Churchill (who was editing the official *British Gazette*) opportunity to thunder on in this purple prose.

Churchill enjoyed the Strike for he considered it another battle; in his long list of battle honours — Cuba, South Africa, Sidney Street, Tonyandy, Dardanelles, Antwerp, Archangel—his spell at the *British Gazette* ranked high. The journal was full of exaggerations and falsifications and what was more he had very little competition and the additional backing of the BBC.

It is highly significant that after their performances in the General Strike, J. H. Thomas and Ramsay MacDonald joined in the National Government which completed the sale of the Labour Party to the interests of British capitalism. This cannot be spoken of as betrayal but merely a fulfilment of their promise of 1926 when they put the interests of the nation (whatever that is) before those of the strikers. It is also interesting that among the galaxy of talent in their Government was the same Sir John Simon who was later to be so useful in explaining the Japanese cause in Manchuria, that the Japanese felt that they could not have put it better themselves.

The unity of opposites is also illustrated by the 1940-45 collaboration of those old buddies, Ernest Bevin of the TUC General Council and Winston Churchill of the *British Gazette*.

Could it happen again or is the General Strike a myth? As long as trade unionists look to leaders and do not take the direction of affairs into their own hands it is possible that a developing victory such as the Strike of 1926 will be thrown away again.

JACK ROBINSON.

A VERY FAMILIAR situation has again arisen in Vietnam, the military government, under Air Marshal Ky, has had a nasty fright. History has nearly repeated itself and would have done if Ky hadn't decided that compromise was better than 'out of office'.

In Hué, a northern city of South Vietnam, rebels decided to attempt to overthrow the military government. This city of 110,000 people, which is dominated by the Buddhists, wishes to return to civilian government. South Vietnam's military government has attempted to isolate the city by preventing the national airline and the postal service from operating in Hué.

The other northern city which has rebelled is Du Nang. Students and soldiers threw up road blocks against a possible invasion by loyal Saigon troops.

This spot of rebellion has come at a bad time both for the Americans and the South Vietnam government. For the first time they both thought they were beginning to win the war against the Vietcong, and that a government would be established in Saigon politically strong enough to oppose the communists.

Now no one is sure any more, the militant Buddhists are dictating terms to Ky—accept or 'out'. Marshal Ky has promised a national election within five months. Whether this quiets the rebels for a while remains to be seen, but any government with a gun at its back can't last for long, it's bound to crack sooner or later. In any case Ky's military junta has been shaky ever since it took office. President Johnson tried to prop it up when he met

# A Deal in Vietnam?

Ky in Honolulu in February. Since that date crises have occurred at irregular intervals, generals rebelled, Catholics demonstrated and Buddhists counter-demonstrated, but up to now none of these dissident groups have called for the halting of the war, they all appear to want power.

The Americans whilst not happy with this situation, are prepared to back any government which opposes the Communists, after all it doesn't take long to change one's coat particularly if it is of a similar colour which will go with practically anything except red, and is not made in China.

One has always associated the Buddhists with peace and prayer, but quite obviously they have had enough of the successive corrupt South Vietnamese governments. Their call for 'out with the Americans' cannot be taken too seriously if their declared intention is to continue the struggle against the Vietcong.

There is more than a strong possibility that an elected civilian government would be Buddhist

dominated. Would they be more amenable to peace talks after gaining power? This question really does concern the American Government. It could drastically alter their policy of 'containing' China, plus the fact that there is mounting pressure in the States opposing the continuation of the Vietnam war.

A week ago Senator Mansfield proposed peace talks between representatives of America, China, North Vietnam and 'essential elements' in South Vietnam. The composition of 'essential elements' is left very vague it could mean anyone. The important omission is the fact that the Saigon government as a government is not rated as a 'condition' for any talks.

If the Americans can do a deal with China in terms of restraint of some kind in S.E. Asia then the Vietnamese can do as they like, even have peace if they want to. The prospect for the Vietnamese people may be just a shade brighter. After 20 or more years of war they are entitled to something, even keeping alive is progress for them.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

## STILL IN BUSINESS

THE WESTMINSTER GASWORKS infants returned to 'work' last week, but it was no quiet formal return. Whether because it happens to be spring, which is the traditional time for sweeping away the accumulation of cobwebs, or whether since Mr. Wilson has opted for a 16-month session (holidays notwithstanding) those people who have either a vested interest or naively back a loser all the way, believe that over such a long period (as long in fact as Labour's reign with their slender majority), the 'left' can at last with nobody breathing down their necks begin to reform large areas of public life. Some time during the next 16 months we can expect to see debates televised if we care to watch, and since people may not like what they see—I refer to the zoo-like antics of front-benchers and Cabinet Ministers which would give any psychologist studying the power complex a field day—there seems to be a desire on the part of some writers (Bernard Levin can claim to have set the ball rolling), to reform the out-dated methods of the House of Commons, so that at least its members may appear to be working and giving their darndest in their country's cause, and better still if the house is reformed, debating time will once again become serious and will pave the way for bills to be passed instead of shelved.

Harold Wilson is much more secure in his power and therefore can begin to realize what he wants. As Jack Robinson pointed out last week in these pages Wilson may well make good use of technological advancement, but I shall be surprised if this will help more than

a fraction of the total number of people, therefore, haphazardly skimming the surface, with people still working long hours for a living wage in a society dedicated to the profit motive. Wilson has set his heart on nationalizing steel, so this bill is waiting in the wings for its cue as it were, even though there are other bills concerning people's moral and material well-being which should get priority, though the more controversial the bill is, the greater will be the excuse for the more conservative elements to take the long-winded way round and kill the bill stone-dead. (Come to think of it 16 months can give the most pontificating wind-bag more time than he needs and long holidays only serve to let those interested go over the same ground a second time). The *Daily Mail* gave Bernard Levin a full page and *carte blanche* for his diatribe on what ails the Parliamentary system; a neutral might well be excused in leaping to Levin's defence—the Chief Whip wasn't slow in making out that Levin was totally ignorant of the facts—but since Levin on the one hand has a bee in his bonnet about apartheid, while on the other he wholeheartedly supports US policy in Vietnam, and takes four days, in election week, of his paper's space to tell his readers why he is willing to let Labour con him again. After all has it taken Levin all these years to realize the system our rulers abide by falls totally short of what democracy should be? More likely the answer is that this former theatre critic has grown more 'daring' with the blessing of his paper, though by now Levin has become a safe writer like Gilbert Harding used to be

in the *People*, writing the kind of column full of indignant sallies which would appeal to even the most reactionary judge or policeman because the writer has become insulated and accepted. Of course one does agree with what he says whilst the reservations remain, and many people feel that MPs do too little work for too much money while urging us to produce more; again agreed: yet I didn't see or hear any of these people bring up such a sharp and relevant point during the last election or indeed turn their backs on the ballot box and begin to work outside politics and against the power structure. Even if our Parliamentary system was reformed due to public pressure, our rulers would still 'reform' it in their own image and to their own liking, and although such reform would have far-reaching consequences and would be of interest to us all, merely reforming an abomination and an anachronism is of no earthly use to anarchists who want a peaceful revolution, an entire change, with the abolition of rulers, and their time-consuming tactics, impertinent moralizing and misuse of public money.

I doubt if this television business will be of much help. Debates will probably

Continued on page 3

## ITMA

MR. STAN ORME, MP speaking at a meeting on Vietnam at the Labour Club in Chorley, noticed some familiar faces and saw black and red. Without a murmur of a heckle he went into a tirade against the anarchists. The main point seemed to be, 'Don't call me a hypocrite for voting for defence budgets, when you don't believe in voting yourself'.

He was asked how far escalation must go before left-wing Labour MPs forced Wilson to change policy over Vietnam or resign. He replied that it wouldn't take much more. He wouldn't say what particular event would result in drastic action, on their part, but action would be taken if the Americans went too far. They might take action against the Government if the centre of Hanoi was bombed, or if Britain sent troops. A fine case of planning to lock the door after the horse has bolted.

Escalation suits political windbags down to the ground. Developments take place so gradually—almost imperceptibly. No step taken is so drastically different from the one before, that Orme & Co.'s consciences are troubled into taking action against the Government.

Mr. Orme is, no doubt, sincere in his opposition to the Americans in Vietnam, but he thinks the political game is the way to get things done. His political manoeuvres are useless. He is a pawn in the political game not a player. He can huff and he can puff but he doesn't even want to blow the house down. A.T.R.

## STUART CHRISTIE CAMPAIGN

The annual general meeting of the National Council for Civil Liberties takes place this week. The following emergency resolution was tabled by seven comrades:

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED individual members of the National Council for Civil Liberties present at the Anarchist Federation of Britain Conference held at Birmingham on April 2-3, 1966, request Conference to give the Executive of the Council a mandate as follows:—

1. Inquire thoroughly, together with Mr. Benedict Birnberg (Stuart Christie's English lawyer) and Mr. Neil McDermott, QC, who has also been involved in the case, into the events leading up to the arrest of Stuart Christie in Spain on August 11, 1964.
2. Investigate thoroughly the subsequent trial and sentence of Stuart (now serving a term of 20 years in Carabanchol Prison, Madrid) and the charge involved of 'plotting acts of terrorism in Spain'.
3. Ascertain potential sources of

appeal whereby this severe sentence could be lessened.

4. If there are sufficient grounds to make an appeal through the Spanish courts for a reduction in sentence.

5. Investigate the alleged £1,000 debt owed by Stuart to his Spanish lawyer for expenses incurred during the four-hour trial, the non-payment of which to date has been the reason given for the refusal of this lawyer to prepare any appeal on Stuart's behalf.

6. Investigate fully the possibility of British legal aid being granted to Stuart to cover these expenses of appeals to be made on his behalf.

7. Investigate means whereby the trial of British civilians abroad by military tribunals may be prevented in future.

8. This Annual General Meeting is further of the opinion that a 20-year sentence on a youth of 18 years (at the time of his arrest) is severe for any crime, especially that of militant opposition to General Franco's regime in Spain.

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# GIVEN A TASTE OF FREEDOM . . .

'WHAT WOULD we do without them?' whined the ex-secret cop turned film actor, during a recent discussion on police corruption, on Eamonn Andrews' TV celebrity show. 'What indeed?', echoed the mindless famous.

'Anarchy' was forecast when the 2,400-strong Brussels police force, joined by police in Antwerp, Liege and other provincial towns, walked out on a 24-hour strike. That's exactly what they got. Evening rush-hour traffic jams sorted themselves out, with care and courtesy, in half the normal time. Motorists ignored parking restrictions and traffic flowed. Schoolteachers turned out to get children safely across road crossings. Publicans refused to serve aggressive drunks. Banks and jewellers provided their own security squads but this proved an unnecessary precaution.

Naturally, most people given a taste of freedom will act, initially, in a self-disciplined and rational manner. Yet, in the event of a prolonged Brussels police strike, would not the mind-crippling effects of State brainwashing (mass-media conditioning) and hereditary social sickness (tribal inhibition, taboo and guilt/sin religious mythology) ensure that individual responsibility be abused and degenerate into mob rule and brutality? In fact, return to an unsophisticated evolutionary form of terrorism, far worse than the contemporary police state?

Sheriff Thomas Young called for 'Compulsory sterilisation of criminals' ment at Stafford Jail is aspirin water and

a prisoner lost remission for refusing an order to take meat and bones from a dustbin and put them in a stew. Mr. Leonard Massey, Stockport's Chief Constable, advocated 'experience of physical pain, such as the restoration of the birch'. The Belgian police strike was for better guns, as well as more pay.

Obviously, these people are sick and most cops, by the very nature of their jobs, can be judged insensitive to progress. Yet they can be only slight in a speech to the Scottish Mental Health Conference. Main medical treat-

*Dost thou think, because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale?*—SIR TOBY BELCH.

THE DESIRE to 'contract-out' of society once more manifested itself in the recent 'uproar' about the cave-dwellers of Derbyshire. There in the disused lead-mines and natural caves live a number of young people, whose main wish is to 'be left alone'. This is what Tom, a former labourer from Bourne-mouth, told a newspaper reporter:

'I've been a Trog for two years. I know nothing about prostitution, Black Magic or mock marriages. We come here because we are individuals. We don't want organising. We want to be left alone. We sleep in the rocks and wash in the stream. We have no clothes except those we wear.'

What is the fuss all about? Evidently a local religious group, Project Evangelistic Crusade, who have a full time staff of 15, sent 200 theological 'students'

exaggerations of the body-society; a mirror of the times. Human evolution is as yet in its infancy and real anarchy will only be achieved by a gradual process of constructive education and individual illumination/liberation. Yet anarchists, like V. Johnson, talk about 'successful workers' revolutions' and 'workers' militias' killing saboteurs. Well, I'm all for workers taking over factories and running their own lives but killing saboteurs takes us right back

to the Authoritarian roots of every failed and betrayed revolution. 'Successful revolutions' involve much more than taking over factories and running them at gun-point. They involve deep understanding, genuine universal love, tolerance to others and mental and emotional maturity. That's perhaps why we haven't had any. We've thousands of years of psychological mess to clean up before embryonic man can think clearly and be truly free. In the meantime we can work towards bursting our physical chains. Organised State Violence, in all its forms, must be opposed. The mad cop must not have it all his own way.  
DAVE CUNLIFFE.

# TROGS, OR WHAT YOU WILL

into the caves to make contact with the cave-dwellers. Their excuse for this intolerable incursion on the young people's freedom was that there were practices of 'Black Magic, prostitution and mock marriages to ease their consciences'.

The local worthies are also upset. A Mr. O. Tinti, local coal merchant and councillor, said: 'A strong line will have to be taken with these youngsters. They should be stopped from sleeping rough and barred from public houses, bars and cafes'. Resulting from all this publicity publicans and shopkeepers had no other choice but to put up 'No Trogs' signs, even though a policeman offered this guarded defence of the 'trouble-

makers': 'Trogs have been invading the town for about two years now, but there is little we can do unless they cause trouble.'

This last sentence proves that misunderstanding and dislike may have been between the townspeople and the cave-dwellers, but there was no trouble—otherwise the police would have prosecuted only too gladly—until the religious busybodies came along to compensate for their empty, sexless, platitudinous lives by getting sadistic pleasure out of the persecution of a small defenceless group.

It was good to hear that 'Scruff, Tom and Charlie' and the rest of the Trogs came down from the hills, marched into Matlock and held a meeting where they said that they 'will not be run out of town'. That the report by the Evangelical Crusade was grossly exaggerated and that they live a quiet life and nothing sinister goes on in the caves.

But the problem remains and it is no fault of the hard-working townspeople and the 'minimum-hills' in the caves. The townspeople feel foolish and resentful, knowing that hard as they work they will never have as much freedom as the Trogs, who in their turn cannot contract out completely as they must beg and scrounge for a minimum of food.

No doubt the conflict will be 'resolved' in the usual authoritarian manner. The Trogs will be drummed out of town in the name of God and the 200 theological 'students'. Yet if they could only discuss the real cause of all this fuss—the society we live in—it would benefit both town- and cave-dwellers alike.  
JOHN RETY.

## ROUND THE GALLERIES

HE is an artist who stands outside his period, a man eager and ever willing to make his earthly peace with God yet unable to come to terms with his fellow men. Estranged even from his own family he had all the passion of the introvert for emotionally charged friendships that all too often bloomed into the black flower of swift hatred and with it the desire and the talent to reduce each emotive affirmation or protestation into a single painted figure. Divorced from the complexities of the human struggle Georges Rouault's figures have the primitive urgency of medieval morality figures in that each one acts out the single role of a named evil and a named love yet, by their very self-proclaimed isolation, they can neither purge us by remorse nor move us by a desire to emulate for they are but the Manichean symbols of abstract good and evil. In 1916 Amboise Vollard commissioned Rouault to produce 100 large etchings to illustrate two books by André Suarès. They were to be called *Miserère* and *Guerre*. For nine years Rouault laboured at these etchings. They were years of rages, hatreds, reconciliations and partings, culminating in the inevitable lawsuit and in the deliberate destruction, by Rouault, of 315 works that he felt did not do him justice as an artist so that in 1948 the Redfern Gallery was able to place on public exhibition only 58 etchings of the series *Miserère* and *Guerre*.

The Redfern Gallery of 20 Cork Street, W.1, are to be congratulated for the opportunity they have given the Town to examine afresh not only Rouault's *Miserère* series but the *La Passion, Le Cirque de L'Etoile Filante* and *Les Reincarnation du Pere Ubu* series. Here is Rouault penny plain, without the saccharine colours of his oils and watercolours, black and brooding from wall after wall of this Bond Street gallery with Rouault dominating every framed cry with his own sad and

masochistic self-portrait of the droll who nobody loves or laughs with. Rouault is no Goya marking with a thin and raking needle the blasphemise that man commits against his fellow man, for Rouault's thick and brutal lines reject the subtle analysis of those who can stand aside and record in silent contemplation the world's agonies. These etchings at the Redfern are truly the mirror of the man and his thick and heavy lines can, by their very insensitivity, communicate only pathos and self pity. Here is the poet of despair whose subjects are forever strangers to the artist in that they are but halting for one weary moment to give a grudging pose on their way to Calvary. Within this dark and grave-haunted world of empty shadows his living puppets rest and drained of all committed agony their broken faces contemplate their own reflection in the craftsman's searching eye as he scratches his *de profundis* upon the copperplate. Yet, here is an artist who, by his talent, has enlarged the visual mythology of the Church. Not because he has surrendered his limited talent to the sophistries of some political priest but because, as an artist, he has been true only to himself.

And what can one say of Robert Motherwell except to contradict the Town's cognoscenti as, with a kerchief to the nose and a finger to the cheek, they stand among the gutter garbage of the Whitechapel High Street keening that genius has once again arrived by UNDERGROUND to take up a short residence at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. The fault is not Motherwell's for he paints within the limitation of his publicised limitations and he has the right, if he so wishes it, to place his work on public exhibition but to pretend for one single moment that any of these large and paint-splashed canvases possess sufficient aesthetic value to justify turning the whole of this major gallery over to them is to publicly proclaim a cul-

tural poverty on a par with the Albert Memorial. One particular critic has described the series *Elegy to the Spanish Republic* as one of the great contributions to Abstract Expressionism but if the scale is monumental enough and the action repetitive enough any haphazard collection of brush strokes could be so described.

It was in 1948 that Motherwell was asked for a black-and-white decoration to illustrate a poem of Harold Rosenberg's and the fascination of that single exercise was such that he has used the same motif time and time again. Varying only, it would seem to the piquant eye, the titles that form the music for this saraband for Motherwell's *Elegy to the Spanish Republic*. And the repeated design? 'three flat black ovals are lodged between three broad, flat black verticals'.

Frank O'Hara, who has written the introduction to the gallery's catalogue, tells the Town that the individual paintings of the series can be interpreted as male verticals and female ovoids or bull's tails and testicles when all that he means is that if you paint some crude black ovals and two or three broad black columns the standing breadth of your large canvas you will have shapes with erotic implications and, if you paint them on a large enough scale, you have made a contribution, if not to our cultural heritage, at least to the vanity of the critics of the national art trade magazines who can do their work without reference to the canvases upon the gallery walls. Yet, if one is angry it should never be with the artist who has the right to express himself in any manner he chooses and a right to exhibit if he can so arrange it. For if one is angry it must surely be with those drear syrophantic creatures who will hawk any trivia half-way across the world that other drear and nasty little men may publicly eat critical shit for an editorial handout and for them the contempt of every man who loves the practice and the appreciation of the arts.  
ARTHUR MOYSE.

## Catching Up!

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## Anarchist Federation of Britain

c/o Freedom Press, 17a Maxwell Road, London, S.W.6.

### 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.  
MAY 1 Arthur Mendes-George (Editor of De Vrije).  
The Dutch and their Anarchist Movements.  
MAY 8 Cedric Fauntleroy  
Contraception

LAG 2. Report and Discussion. A special meeting. Friday, May 6. 7.45 p.m. Lamb and Flag.  
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. Day, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.  
**ARLESEY GROUP (N. Herts., S. Beds.).** Meetings on first Friday of month. Correspondence to Peter and Maureen Ford, 102 Stottford 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 (BEAwood 1504). Sales: Gordon Causey, 27 Upper Gungate, Tamworth, Staffs. (Tamworth 4562). Regular Meetings.  
**BRISTOL FEDERATION.** Enquiries to Ian Vine, 3 Freedom Place, Hotwells, Bristol, 8.  
**CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Mike Gowley, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.  
**CHORLEY ANARCHISTS.** Contact Alistair Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley, Lancs.  
**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.

**GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP TWO.** Meets 11 Balfour Street every two weeks. Contact Joe Embleton.  
**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.  
**ILFORD LIBERTARIANS.** Regular meetings and direct action contact 212 Vicarage Road, Leyton, E.10.  
**LEICESTER ANARCHISTS.** Correspondence, Peter Gibbon, 22 Fosse Road Central, West End, Leicester.  
**LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13.** 61b Granville Park. Meeting postponed to May 12 at 7.30 p.m.  
**MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact: Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road, Droylesden. Meetings every Tuesday, 8 p.m. at the Lord Nelson, Chapel Street, Manchester.  
**MERSEYSIDE FEDERATION.** Enquiries: Barbara Renshaw, 4 Clarence Road, Devonshire Park, Birkenhead, Cheshire.  
**NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS.** Contact: Jim Hugon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex. Meetings first and third Wednesday of the month at Jeannie's, 6 Epsom Close, Northolt Park, Middlesex, at 7.30 p.m.  
**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.  
**ORPINGTON 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.  
**PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION.** Contact J. Hill, 79 Underlane, Plymouth, Devon.

**READING ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Philip Lord, 160 Castle Hill, Reading.  
**SOUTHALL ANARCHIST GROUP.** Get in touch with Roger Sandell, 58 Borrns Avenue, Southall, Middlesex.  
**STOKE LIBERTARIANS.** Correspondence Secretary: Bob Blakeman, 52 Weldon Avenue, Weston Coyney, Stoke-on-Trent.

### EAST LONDON FEDERATION

**WALTHAM FOREST ANARCHISTS.** Contact Lionel Donnelly, 322a Hoe Street, Walthamstow, E.17. Meetings every Thursday at above address.  
**WEST HAM ANARCHISTS.** Contact Mr. Karl Taylor, 98 Clova Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7. Meetings every Wednesday.  
**WEST LONDON FEDERATION.** First meeting Monday, May 9, 8 p.m. 'The Anchor', Ealing Broadway. Speaker from 'Solidarity' and discussion.

### PROPOSED GROUPS

**EALING, LONDON, W.5.** If interested contact Don Clarke, c/o 6 The Park, Ealing, W.5.  
**NOTTING HILL GATE.** Anyone interested in reviving the libertarian group get in touch with Brian McGrath, 27 Arundel Gardens, London, W.11.  
**BELFAST, IRELAND.** Contact Peter Stringer, 7 Duffy Street, Belfast, 13.  
**LONDON, CRYSTAL PALACE/NORWOOD.** Please contact Bill and Kate Verelidge, 50 Camden Hill (3 rings), London, S.E.19.

### 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.

# ★ LETTERS ★

## A Dedicated Human Being

I AM the person who was introduced as the anarchist speaker in Trafalgar Square at the end of the March. It seems to me odd that an anarchist should now have to present his credentials to other anarchists in order to clear away a certain amount of ill feeling, but I am told this is the case so here goes. I am an artist, teacher, poet and writer. I am the editor of a duplicated magazine called *My Own Mag*. I was, for a time, very active with Alex Trocchi on the *Sigma* scene. I organised and contributed to the *Stigma*, an experience that was available in Better Books basement a year ago. I have frequently appeared at the Peanuts Club. I am not a member of anything political, but subscribe to a number of biological categories. I am, for instance, a dedicated Human Being.

I arrived in the Square on Easter Monday in my customary amiable condition only to have my bonhomie destroyed by anger and disgust at the ineffectual cliché that the whole event had become. I went up on to the terrace, or whatever it's called, and was hailed by my old friend Dick Wilcocks who told me that my old friend Del Foley had been taken away by some policemen, that an anarchist speaker was called for, and that nobody would come forth. The fact that nobody would come forth seemed to delight Peggy Duff and this annoyed me even more so I decided to take the opportunity to tell the whole wittering shower what I thought of them. This I attempted to do although my original spleen was somewhat watered down by a rush of mawkish affection on being confronted by all those faces. Dear old Easter March!

What I said, for the record, is this: politicians are no longer (or never have been) sensitive to honourable appeal. They and their economic manipulators

are sensitive to anything which endangers their position and indifferent to almost all else. The eight-year failure of CND and the Committee of 100 with both Conservative and Labour Governments is the most graphic proof of this. It is a regrettable fact that no popular movement has ever reached any measure of success without showing the politicians and power bugs that it is prepared to be dangerous on their own filthy level and by their own filthy methods. Also the urge to protest and revolt is, by definition, a violent urge and will be effective only insofar as its intrinsic energy is acknowledged. The anti-bomb movement is composed of awfully sweet people who have not yet learned that the shits with whom we are dealing have a very ready boot poised for the other cheek as soon as it is turned.

Yes, I am prepared to be more positive than this. I have a programme and, should you want me to, I will present it but not in print and not in public. Let us, for Christ's sake, stop playing games. We know the result of giving the glad hand to the fuzzi. Now let's get down to business. JEFF NUTTALL.

## Unrepentant Sympathiser

Dear Editors,

I was not attacking anarchist 'petty violence' in the Square; I was attempting to explain how it happened. I expect violence of the police; I do not expect it of anarchists.

An unrepentant sympathiser,  
London, N.1 BOB OVERY.

## An Amendment

Dear Editors,

'Poetry and Anarchism'  
May I suggest an amendment to Vincent Johnson's contemptuous definition? 'Poetry is to revolution what nakedness is to sex'.

Best wishes,  
Kirbymoorside, Yorks. JOHN ARDEN.

Shortage of space curtails our Freedom and yours. Many letters HAD to be held over.—Eds.

MORE DETAILS were revealed to an uninterested public of a savage, sadistic series of crimes involving children which are continuing daily. One section of the killers were shown on TV (with no protest from Mrs. Mary Whitehouse) training to torture and investigate captives. They were taught to roar like animals and to hate-think with chanting to work up their excitement. They were taught the rudiments of water-torture and brain-washing. For catering to the tastes of these men, children of thirteen are earning £100 a month as child prostitutes and it is estimated that 35,000 children are living on or by prostitution. Frequently children are killed. A woman city councillor has asked the killers to bring their own prostitutes. Plans are being made to set up an entertainment area. This is not a re-told happening at Chester Assizes, this is happening now in the United States, in Saigon, and Hanoi and no Sunday paper is interested in making a protest.

MR. McNAMARA, American Defense Secretary, denied that there was a shortage of bombs in Vietnam. He said that 50,000 tons of bombs had been dropped during March and it was planned to drop 638,000 tons during 1966. There was more than five weeks supply of bombs in inventory in South-East Asia. Bombs, he said, were being dropped in Vietnam at three times the monthly rate of the Korean war, and at a rate slightly higher than that reached by all American bomber aircraft operating in North Africa and Europe during the last three years of the Second World War. 'We are a very peculiar people,' said Mr. McNamara. 'We should be proud of what we are doing there, in applying an unlimited military power in pursuit of a limited political objective.'

MR. JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH, speaking at a dinner of the Americans for Democratic Action, said of Vietnam, 'It is not important to the United States'. He denied it was even a bastion of freedom or a testing place of democracy. 'He said that had it been lost in 1954 'no one would be thinking about it today'.

MR. IAN MIKARDO, in the House of Com-

## OUT OF THIS WORLD

mons, accused Labour Party Whips of intervening to veto a Left-Wing Party Member chosen by Independent Television to speak on a 'Vietnam' programme. Mr. Mikardo himself had also been superseded by the Whips in a programme about nuclear disarmament. Mr. Woodrow Wyatt (a right-wing Labourite) complained later of similar treatment.

THE LENIN PRIZE FOR LITERATURE was not awarded this year, following a speech by Mikhail Sholokov (Nobel prizewinner) against anti-Soviet writings. The *Cape Times* stated that if South Africa goes on restricting and imprisoning South Africans without trial, the world will draw its own conclusions. The Vatican is discontinuing the index of forbidden books and leaving it to national churches to advise Roman Catholics against reading certain works. A couple belonging to the Dutch Reformed Church Community have been banned from attending services because they have a television set. A Red Army colonel writing in *Red Star*, the Ministry of Defence's official organ, has attacked a description in *Novy Mir* of some characters in a novel (Red Army men), as cowardly brutal careerists. The colonel has accused the author of falsifying history and slandering men who died heroically for their country. Mrs. Mary Whitehouse again protests about the BBC slandering the Queen.

THE EVENING STANDARD printed in last Thursday's early editions of an anarchist threat (picked up in Hyde Park) to interfere with the Queen's horse during a race meeting. (Perhaps they were thinking of Emily Davidson?) However the threat disappeared in later editions and it is believed that the Queen's horse lost without anarchist help.

IN THE SAME ISSUE Anne Sharpley, writ-

ing of the opening of Parliament, headed 'How Much Longer Can This Last?' writes, 'Anticipation competes with boredom, discomfort with splendour as the peers and their peeresses pack steadily into that insufficient finicky little chamber of the House of Lords for the third time in eighteen months... a tendency to be disarmed by the comic grandeur of it all often occludes the true and tremendously undemocratic nature of this gilded box of goodies'. Bernard Levin in Wednesday's *Daily Mail*, writing of the same ceremonial, said, 'Amid the splendour the Queen will ascend a throne which normally serves for the younger sons of peers to sit on the steps of, and make what is known as the Queen's Speech, for the very logical reason that it is written by the Prime Minister. Returning to their own bailiwick, the House of Commons will spend anything up to five days debating the contents of the Gracious Speech or, to be precise, debating a motion humbly thanking Her Majesty for delivering it... For the House of Commons is today in a state of decay, incompetence and fully justified ill-repute worse than at any time since the worst days of George III.' Mr. William Hamilton, MP, earlier described the ceremony as 'little more than a fancy dress parade' and described it as 'a ceremony of hilarious irrelevance to the problems facing this country'.

DESCRIBING ANOTHER CEREMONY, the running of the presses for the *Morning Star*, Dame of the British Empire, Sybil Thorndyke, said, 'I've always been very interested in the *Worker*. That darling man who edits it—I can't think of his name for the moment—and I have been friends for ages.'

ONE OF THE LAST STORIES in the *Daily Worker* is an item about a call from the Secretary of the Russian Federation of Writers' Union to end the omission of Stalin's name from novels and memoirs about the last war. In a speech to the Union's Board, published in the journal *Literary Russia*, he also demanded that the Battle of Stalingrad be described by that name and not 'Battle on the Volga' as it has been for some years.

JON QUIXOTE.

EIGHTY to 100 people, representing the following countries (France, Holland, Sweden, Belgium, Britain (9 English and 1 Scot), Italy, Spanish Exiles and a comrade from West Germany), attended this meeting in Paris.

We began with a brief report about the movements in each country:—

### HOLLAND

There are two groups:

1. The Provos, who call themselves anarchists but have leaders and have helped political parties. They exist to provoke authority and to expose its corrupt nature.

2. The group centred around the publication *De Vrije*. They translate and publish anarchist articles and have produced the first book on anarchism in Dutch since the war. They also participate in various activities, e.g. anti-censorship, anti-bomb, anti-monarchy and anti-Franco.

The two groups show little co-operation although they participate in similar activities. There is a growing interest in anarchism but this is hindered by distance between comrades—there are no groups. Their main activity in the future is to educate the Dutch about Fascism in Spain, as the situation is not realised.

### FRANCE

There are many organisations: 18 groups in Paris and 40 over France. There is a close liaison between groups and the same people are found in many different groups. There are two libraries collecting anarchist literature and they are building a third in Paris. Many publications, individualists are the most prevalent.

### SWEDEN

There are three groups: Stockholm and Malmö are small, with old people

# EUROPEAN MEETING OF YOUNG ANARCHISTS

and not active. Göteborg has 50 young people and is the biggest group.

They have been involved in campaigns against Franco and for political prisoners, anti-bomb and against the war in Vietnam. The movement is becoming popular amongst the youth and a paper *Brand* is published five times a year. Interest in anarchism has grown with the publication of *Brand*—68 years old.

There is also a syndicalist TU (SAC) with which they have little contact. It has 22,000 members and their numbers are increasing steadily—they are also most active in Göteborg.

The anarchists have organised a two-day conference for the beginning of June and ask for support from other countries, if possible.

### BELGIUM

Revo—the Belgian equivalent of Provo—was the representative. There is also an anarcho-syndicalist movement in Liège and Brussels.

There are two types of Revos: The Flemish follow Provo—action aimed at all classes and ages about any problem. The French-speaking is aimed at the youth to direct them away from the Fascist movement growing in Belgium. There is no hostility between the two groups and they both work with the anarchist movement.

Provo and Revo are pacifist, anti-authoritarian, against the State and for federalism, against the reformism of TUs (TUs work for the State and to reap any material benefits you must work outside the unions). In their opinion anarchism can only be brought into being by violent

action, but they are non-violent. Thus they do not consider themselves true anarchists but feel that anarchism offers the best solution. Both movements have however attracted a large fringe element of destructive youth verging on the 'mod/rocker' type. The Provo admit this, but hope, in time, to involve these elements in the more revolutionary active and theoretically aware movement.

### ITALY

There are two groups, differing in structure and ideology. The split occurred after their last conference:—

1. FAGI—the youth group within the anarchist federation.

2. The anarchist initiative group—not represented at the conference—with no comparable youth group.

FAGI follow a rather strict ideological basis—that of Malatesta. It has been difficult trying to build a youth group because of the ideals of the 'old brigade' on organisation.

They are interested in making studies in psychology and sociology, and have a close liaison with syndicalists and TUs (which are far more libertarian and syndicalist on the continent than they are here).

They feel their most important fight is that against militarism and urge conscientious objection.

### SPAIN

There is little anarchist activity in Spain at present due to the silence of the movement in exile (a comrade in exile refuted the fact that there was no militancy amongst them, but comrades were ageing and had lost their spirit). She suggested that young people had learnt about anarchism in Spain from their parents, and that there is probably an underground movement, but their strength and potential are not known. We, outside Spain, must awaken the Spanish as a whole to the fact that people are everywhere helping in the struggle against Franco. It was reported that 10 to 15 young comrades are imprisoned in Burgos, and many more in Carabanchel (including Stuart Christie).

It was felt that the CNT had compromised with the Communists and Fascists in Spain, and the hope was expressed that the FLY (Federation of Libertarian Youth) in Spain would not fail in this way.

As there had not been time to give a detailed survey of activities in each country we were asked to submit a written report to Paris for circulation.

Proposals for study were then discussed; conflict arose between those who wanted the actual study to form part of

the conference itself, and those who considered it more effective to organise future studies on the topics mentioned in the agenda after relevant papers have been fully prepared and circulated. The following subjects to be included in this:—

1. Youth and the decline of political interest in Europe—study to be co-ordinated in Britain.

2. Young anarchists and State communism—France.

3. Difference between manual and intellectual work in Kropotkin, Bakunin and Malatesta in relation to the growth of technocracy—Italy.

4. Our position towards the insurrectional movements of the Third World—Holland.

5. Workers' Control—Noir et Rouge Group, Paris.

Co-ordination to be assisted by the contribution of relevant material from all interested European countries. Discussion on these papers can also be discussed at the international camp.

The conference continued with a discussion on activity for the future. Eventually the following decisions were reached:—

1. Again Franco. Simultaneous demos outside Spanish embassies on July 19—the thirtieth anniversary of the Spanish war. Also to link up activity for action in commemorating Spain 1936 and Budapest 1956.

2. Those countries who can work within the anti-bomb movement should continue to do so, emphasising the fundamental cause of war.

3. To aid the struggle of apprentices and young workers.

4. Britain to make known anti-election activity to other countries.

5. International camp—in August for four weeks either in France at Agde near Perpignan, or in Italy by Lake Como. A definite decision will be made known soon.

Finally, organisation was discussed. Although some comrades objected to a central co-ordinating body, after hours of discussion it was decided that the *De Vrije* group should co-ordinate communication and Paris should co-ordinate action; division in this way being more libertarian. If possible countries should try to translate their articles into French, Italian and English; but if this is not possible, to send it in the languages available to them. It was emphasised that all individuals and groups should retain total independent initiative at all times, but expand their outlook and activities on a more international basis.

Vietnam was discussed, but a meaning-

less motion, 'for the newspapers', was fortunately abandoned; ideas for encouraging libertarian elements in Vietnam and S.E. Asia (Japanese Fed. of An.?) and Australasia, were mooted and are probably a more positive form of action. Conflict between violent and pacifist anarchists, which was an undercurrent of the conference, seemed to crystallise at this point.

In all, the meeting was of great use in establishing international contact which is sadly lacking at present. The meeting was a little exasperating at times, notably on Sunday morning, whilst discussing activity and organisation, when the conference was going round in ever-decreasing circles. Translation, however, was of excellent quality, discussion was carried on in French, Italian and English, little misunderstanding arising. Spirits were high and enthusiasm great. We hope that decisions reached will materialise.

British anarchists present committed themselves to aforementioned activities, for further details of these contact Northolt Anarchists, we need interest, ideas and direct help (e.g. reading group—interested in the international bulletin).

Anti-election work—all groups, notably East London Fed., Birmingham, Oxford, Manchester.

We realise that there is little real co-ordination within the AFB but please help to maintain international contacts and collaboration.

Finally, the possibility of a conference next year was suggested to assess progress made, to be held, possibly, in the House of Europe at Strasbourg.

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS.

## STILL IN BUSINESS

Continued from page 1  
be 'vetted', although it is conceivable that MPs will brush up their manners now Joe Soap is able to see for himself much more often what goes on thanks to TV. During the election various ministers were allotted television time, and FREEDOM expressed the hope that people would see how hopelessly phoney politicians were and perhaps summarily reject them; I don't know how much television has actually worked against establishment politics, but there is a real hope that televising debates in the Commons may hasten this process, as MPs seem to need a monumental effort to abstain from the worst features of verbal brawling; then perhaps we won't need the newspapers to tell us that it is all a carefully engineered farce, and once people begin to take control of their own lives and working together for the good of each other in essential production, Parliament will fall into a welcome decay, and its demise will be mourned by nobody. RON PEARL.

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# Preparing for Battle

RAY GUNTER has finally declared his interests. In a speech to the North West region of the Labour Party he claimed that class consciousness was slowly withering away, and went on to say: 'We are expected to do what is best for the country as a whole, and there can be no place for rigid doctrines however sanctified by traditions'.

This is in line with Labour Party policy, of pandering to their supporters, the middle class (or is it the upper working class). How else could they have secured such a

## Contact Column

**Poetry & Jazz.** Friday, May 6, 8 p.m. Town Hall, Mare Street, Hackney. Michael Horowitz, Pete Brown, the band and Brian Patten will be sounding; on Thursday, May 12 at 7.30 p.m., they are joined by Calvin Hernton and Adrian Mitchell for a concert in the Great Hall, King's College, Strand.

**Individualist Anarchists.** London Individualist Anarchists meet on the second Sunday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at 10 Churton Street, Victoria, S.W.1. Off Vauxhall Bridge Road. May 8. Tony Jackson on 'Journey Beyond Reality'.

**Minus One.** An individualist-anarchist review. No. 13 now out. From S. E. Parker, 2 Orsett Terrace, London, W.2. Price 9d. post free. Or from Freedom Bookshop.

**Job/Girl/Country.** 16-year-old comrade (working-girl, not student) with problem parent (widow) seeks permanent job in country. Preferably near some Peace/Political-Activity evenings and weekends. Anything considered. Contact through Peter Neville, 12 South Grove, Erdington, Birmingham, 23, urgently.

**Anarchist Badges.** Red and Black Nuclear Disarmament badges 9d. each, 12 for 5/-, 50 for £1, all post free from Birmingham Anarchist Group, Gordon Causer, 27 Upper Gungate, Tamworth, Staffs.

**North West.** Regional Conference and May Day Demonstration in Manchester, April 30 and May 1. Social on Saturday night. Accommodation available. All interested, please write for full details. Ian Smith, 20 Nora Street, Salford, 7, Lancs.

**Underground Poets.** Jim Burns, David Chaloner, Dave Cunliffe, and Tina Morris reading 8 p.m. Monday, May 2, Milton Hall, Deansgate, Manchester.

**Accommodation Offered.** To responsible person in return for taking child to school some days and a (very) little housework. Write 15 Pennine Mansions, Pennine Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11 or phone MEA 1872.

**Money?** Still needed to pay for AFB march leaflet 'Where Are All the Young Ones Gone?' Money to Peter Turner, c/o Freedom Press.

**Accommodation.** Young couple seeking accommodation in West or NW London with view to communal flat. Not too expensive. Grateful for any type of reply. Box 27.

**Oxon.** 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 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.

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

**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.

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

If you wish to make contact let us know.

majority at the General Election. 'Strong government, control the power of the unions' was the winning slogan.

During the debate on the Queen's Speech Gunter attempted to justify wage restraint legislation. The most outrageous contribution he made was, 'This Prices and Incomes Board was never intended to restrain the lower paid from getting any more'. What a load of 'codswallop'. What about the bakers, railwaymen, transport drivers, and busmen. Are they classed as in the higher income bracket? The T & GWU is screaming for this very reason, most of their members are in the lower income bracket and they know that wage restraint is imposed upon them as well as anyone else.

Five trade union general secretaries after seeking advice of 'counsel' have decided that the Prices and Incomes Bill is 'unfair, arbitrarily authoritarian, and would lead to a loss of social justice'. The five unions are the technicians, draughtsmen, cine technicians, scientific workers, and the technical civil servants. The general secretaries also make the important point: 'The Bill in practice does not protect the lowly paid worker who has a weak bargaining power'. Their counsel also warns that the Bill means that a specific offence is punishable by fines of up to £100.

The T & G have warned Gunter regarding interfering in the Wages Council award made to road haulage drivers (FREEDOM, 16.4.66). This was to be expected. The T & G is refusing to co-operate with the PIB on any purely wages issue. But it gave evidence to the Board on the road haulage investigation because this was supposedly a prices issue. Jack Jones, acting general assistant secretary of T & GWU, described the final report as 'unfair and largely irrelevant'.

Despite the opposition from some of the unions and MPs, the Government is determined to push swiftly ahead with its 'early warning' Bill. The people who elected the Government want the Bill but more important still foreign bankers want it and this is Wilson's main concern. George Brown promised before the Election to listen to the objections

## WHITE FEATHER UNION

THE TRANSPORT AND GENERAL Workers Union (T & G) have managed to lose another dispute for their men. This time it was the Esso tanker drivers proving that they are more aware of what a union is about than their executive is. At Bromford Bridge Depot the tanker drivers went out to make sure that an agreement about recruiting via the union was enforced. They were out for over a month while the union executive procrastinated hoping that Esso would cave in and save the wooden headed T & G bureaucrats from the embarrassment of making a decision. Tanker drivers have managed to get the better than normal pay that they have by being militant unionists. So naturally they would prefer to have union members come into the job. Anyway they are being very sensible in protecting union interest by securing the local agreement that all men must be recruited through the union.

The Esso company, very smartly, realised that they had managed to provoke a dispute which was more between the bureaucrats and the rank and file, than between them and their men. So they said no move until we know whether this is official. So the men were neatly stuck out in the cold.

Quite why the union decided not to back the strike seems at first sight almost impossible to believe. However it must

of the unions to the Bill. Fair enough, but this doesn't necessarily mean that union objections will be deleted from the Bill, in fact it cannot be amended, the basic theme is 'wage restraint' therefore it is 'out'. No 'gerrymandering' amendments to amendments can alter that basic fact.

The Scottish TUC had a battle at its conference on prices and incomes and finally agreed on conference's total opposition to 'any government legislation which will delay or impede the process of free collective bargaining between the trade unions and the employers on wages and salaries'. This resolution was carried 24 hours before the Messiah arrived. Wilson was given a standing ovation; if action is not contradictory I don't know what is. The resolution will wind up in the waste paper basket, but if Wilson had received a barrage of silence it would have created a far greater effect. Perhaps I take the game of politics too seriously.

Representatives of nearly one and a quarter million professional workers opposed the Government's wage vetting bill at their annual conference. DATA moved opposition to any legislation providing for penalties on workers or trade unions pursuing wage claims. And so another resolution bites the waste basket. Direct industrial action is the only way to stimulate opposition to authoritarianism.

The rank and file are the only people who are going to take any action. Whilst leaders may cry in sham opposition it's all part of the game, trouble is the last thing they want least of all against the Government. 1926—ugh!

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the employers union, are not really at loggerheads with the Government. John Davies, Director General CBI, still believes in the prices and incomes policy but insists it must stand or fall as a voluntary system.

The CBI need have no fears. George Brown has assured the big employers that he will not, as general policy, refer total profits to his Prices and Incomes Board. CBI have been worried about this and have posed the question to George Brown who made it clear that in principle undistributed profits do not fall within the scope of Government's Incomes Policy.

What a fool question to ask. It's only worker's wages (profits) that come under the hammer, if we let them.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

## WHITE COLLAR BLUES

THE BIGGEST WHITE collar union in the western world is working itself up to its annual democratic orgy in June when the National Executive Council tells the delegates what to do. NALGO finally joined the TUC last year and this year's preliminary agenda reveals NALGO's contradictory agonies in trying to transform itself from an elite preservation society to a trade union.

One motion calls for a 35-hour week solely because manual workers (ugh) have had their hours reduced whilst others call for an expanded Fighting Fund and full pay for official strikes. Even more drastic is a motion to allow

## WHITE COLLAR BLUES

branches to affiliate to Trades Councils—'non-politically' of course! The split between the NEC and the membership is illustrated by the former's approval of the incomes policy, provided that it doesn't hurt, and branch resolutions condemning 'disguised wage restraint'.

Any rejoicing at the prospect of militant white collars would be premature. The most controversial motions are FREEDOM—? —? —? —? —?—TWO tucked away at the back of the agenda so that conference will never reach them and the NEC can quietly bury them in private later.

BOB DEARDEN.

# Freedom For Workers' Control

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## Five Still Not Back

THE DISPUTE on the Taylor Woodrow site at Leadenhall Street, where the four men stayed up on the crane, has still not been settled. When I last wrote about this particular dispute, the men had agreed to return to work after the unions had negotiated the reinstatement of 60 sacked men. This number, however, did not include the four men on the crane and three shop stewards.

Since then there have been a number of developments. Following the return to work, the men found that the management was taking a much tougher line, with meal breaks being strictly adhered to and a careful watch being kept on all shop stewards and known militants. COURT INJUNCTION?

It was felt that since some of the steel fixers were still outside the gates, the shop stewards were not prepared to accept any new ones and they also decided to ban overtime. Last week the management did in fact try to start nine steel fixers, who left the site of their own accord after the position had been explained to them. The men have the backing of their local branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union, who passed a resolution stating that no steel fixers should start until the others had been reinstated. By this action, the branch and its officers are laying themselves open to a court injunction. TGWU officials are worried about this and fear a recurrence of action by the employers, as was taken against another building union. This case was when the union prevented 'labour only' bricklayers of the Emerald Construction Company from working at the Fiddlers Ferry Power Station (FREEDOM, 26.3.66).

In spite of all this, the men are determined to prevent any steel fixers from starting until their mates are back on the site. They feel they have a very strong case for the reinstatement of steward Gordon Emberton, the two other stewards have since decided to give up the fight. Bro. Emberton was originally sacked for leaving his place

a shrewd mob put their cards on the other side of the table. They weren't wrong. Managements have woken up to the fact that the 'officials' of the union are good lads who would 'flog' their mother over a couple of brandies on the conference table. The second mistake is possible to correct even now. Get yourselves a country-wide organisation. When the boss tries to come another like the last one then pull the bloody lot out from under his feet. It's easy enough for the tanker crews—they have constant contact with all the other depots around them. Get down to work and really organise. YOU cannot RELY ON THE TGWU.

SPARKS.

of work without permission, but was later suspended on basic pay until the strike action took place, when he was again sacked. Since the return to work, the unions have been pressing for his reinstatement and a regional commission was convened to look into the question. This found that he was guilty of the accusation but, in order that good relations should be achieved on the site, recommended that the unions and management should meet to discuss his possible reinstatement and a procedural agreement for the site.

Some union officials think that the management will now take him back. Their face has been saved and, by taking him back, they will show that they are willing to compromise. In spite of the fact that the site procedure agreement might prove to be a tough one, the important thing is to get the shop steward back. From this point, the job organisation can be built up again and, once this has been achieved, direct action can be used to by-pass the procedure agreements.

### SAME OLD STORY

Others think that the management will not play ball and the unions will finally drop the question of reinstatement. By this time, no doubt, other steel fixers will have been moved in and there will then be no support on the job for any unofficial action to get Bro. Emberton's job back. As usual we have had the same old story of the lads on the job taking a militant stand while the unions have hindered and held them back. The latter have stepped in with official sanction only so that they would be in a position to control the dispute.

The management probably thought that by sacking the 60 men, and the rest of the job coming out in support, the unions would agree to the closure of the job, as was done on the South Bank site in the late 'fifties. However, the unions were fully conscious of the strength and support from the unofficial organisation, the Joint Sites Committee, and subsequently would not go this far, only making the strike official on the issue of the 60 sacked men.

In spite of the fact that many of the men have obviously suffered financially, because it must be remembered that there have been disputes on the site since last November, it may be necessary to take further action if Bro. Emberton is not reinstated. At the same time, the steel fixers are sticking their necks out by turning back fresh labour and the management could remain firm and take out an injunction against them. These outstanding questions will no doubt be settled one way or another in the forthcoming week.

Although all is not yet settled, workers on this Commercial Union site have put up a tremendous struggle against an employer who was out to smash the militant union organisation on the job. The struggle is not yet over, but as great sacrifices have already been made, it is to be hoped that both Bro. Emberton and the four crane protesters are soon back on the job. P.T.

### LETTER

#### Cut it Out?

Dear Sir,  
Please cut out Workers' Control. What has work-toil to do with freedom?  
In this age of technology the machines, with the aid of scientists and engineers, can do the work. . . . Thus liberating men and women into creative activity.  
Pay the erstwhile human workers the wages of the machines.  
Lancashire LAURENCE CUNIFFE.