# Fredam

## Anarchist Weekly 43

JUNE 18 1966 Vol 27 No 19

# The Opiate of the People

A REVEALING NEWS item recently appeared in the City page of the Evening Standard.

It appears that a large proportion of the 2,000 tons of opium annually produced in the Chinese province of Yunnan is quietly exported to the West. The opium is taken, via Burma, to Northern Thailand where it is partially processed -it forms the basis for morphine and heroin. From there it is shipped to Europe. A sizeable proportion of the finished products finds its way into the hands of international drug-racketeers. Thus the trade serves the Chinese Communists in two ways, it helps to spread drug-addiction and corruption in the West and it is a useful source of gold. It is estimated that China receives as much as 400 tons of gold a year, which is more than Russia exports. Ironically, much of the gold comes from the international gold pool, half the requirements of which come from the US.

Over a century ago, the Imperial Chinese Government went to war with the British Empire in an attempt to stop the massive import of opium into China which was having a ruinous effect on Chinese life. But British military superiority plus the spur of easy profits brought defeat to the Chinese. Today the tables are turned and it is now the Chinese Communist Government that furthers its financial and imperialist ends by this dirty trade. There is not a scrap of difference between the Governments of China and America or Britain or East Germany or anywhere else. All have the same preoccupation with power politics and economic ends. There are minor differences in the degree of rope that the respective states allow their people which reflects, not differences of principle, but the degrees of security with which the various Governments regard themselves. Should a Berlin Wall across London ever be necessary to the British State, then the wall will be built.

When comparing East and West the essential similarity of the two systems should always be borne in mind. Unfortunately it isn't. Most of the opposition to the Vietnam war in this country, for instance, seems to think that the Vietcong and North Vietnamese are morally superior to the Americans and South Vietnamese. At first sight it seems they have a case. All the horror weapons used in the fighting (including LSD 25 which is used, according to Norman Mailer, in what are called 'joy bombs') are employed by the Americans and their puppets. But does anyone seriously believe that if the Vietcong possessed napalm, 'joy bombs', 'lazy dog', etc., they would refrain from using them on moral grounds if to use them was to their military advantage? Certainly the Vietcong use indiscriminate terror, torture and assassination at least as widely as their opponents. And does anyone believe that if the Communists did take over South Vietnam the result would be pleasant? First there would be a bloodbath. Then a regimented dictatorship.

#### PICKETING

9.30 am—12.30 pm JUNE 18 FRENCH TOURIST OFFICE 178 PICADILLY, W.1

Bring your own Placards!

South Vietnamese is a corrupt, rightwing, coca cola dictatorship with (once the fighting stops) a small degree of liberty or else a guaranteed two bowls of rice a day and the complete regimentation of Communism.

It seems to me that one of the main reasons the campaign against the Vietnam war has made little headway in this country is the blatant absence of impartiality, the readiness to praise the Vietcong and damn only the Americans, of most of the campaigners. Among British Communists the lowest depths are reached. There can be few more nauseating sights than a gang of Young Communist Leaguers ruining a demonstration or meeting with their hate-soaked chanting. To them, even the military victory of the Vietcong seems to take second place to a burning desire to see America humbled whatever the circumstances. If the achievement of the latter end necessitated the slaughter of every last noncombatant in Vietnam then the Communists wouldn't bat an eyelid. There's not an ounce of compassion in the lot of them, any more than there is in the Pentagon or Wall Street.

It has been said that the Communist Party in Britain is held in such general odium that the best thing it could do to help the cause of radicalism would be to disband. As it isn't likely to do that the next best thing is for the non-communist, genuine anti-war campaigners to drive it into a corner and leave it revealed to the public as an isolated thing, totally divorced from sincere anti-war movements. But instead the non-communist campaigners, through sheer thoughtlessness, march with the Communists, adopt their slogans and generally discredit their own cause by identifying it in the public eye with Communism. When the Daily Express sneers that all anti-war campaigners are indistinguishable from Communists, to judge from much of the anti-war propaganda in nine cases out of ten the Daily Express is right—by outward appearances anyway.

The same can be said about the antinucléar movement in this country. When China recently exploded the dirtiest nuclear device of all time about twenty people turned up to demonstrate outside the Chinese Embassy. If America had made the test, instead of China, imagine the scene in Grosvenor Square.

Even some anarchists, who of all people should know better, sometimes show a soft spot for Communism. They ignore the dirty deeds of the Communists and instead concentrate on the dirty deeds of the capitalists. They seem to sometimes forget that Communism and capitalism, the Government of North Vietnam and the Government of South Vietnam, the Vietcong and the US Marine Corps are all tarred with the same unscrupulous brush. Because Communists are against capitalism (private enterprise capitalism, that is) and because Communists sometimes talk (although not so much as they used to) of an eventual classless society, it may superficially seem that anarchism has something in common with Communism. In fact, anarchism has no more in common with Communism than it has with the Liberal Party, it has less in common in fact, for liberalism is, at least while prosperity lasts, a fairly tolerant and easy-going creed which Communism can never be. Anarchism is implacably opposed to dogmatism, intolerance and authoritarianism and all these things can be found in Communist governments and parties as much as in the power political set-ups of capitalist states.

JEFF ROBINSON.

## Must they Go it Alone?

THE CRITERIA of the Pearson

Report is in the last paragraph, where it in fact says, we have juggled the figures around, and any increases that the seamen obtain will be paid for by the seamen themselves. The only two morsels of comfort to come out of the 18 pages of words are, the forty-hour week at sea over 12 months instead of two years, and the stabilisation period being two instead of three years. No wonder it took the NUS Executive only two hours to see through the plot.

The employers and the Government grabbed the 'proposals' with both hands, (a) because it will cost the employers little or nothing more than their final offer and it's still in line with the Government's norm for lower paid workers; (b) by accepting the 'proposals' quickly they pushed the NUS way out on a limb

The TUC acted as expected, they saw the straw and grabbed it, they wouldn't challenge any Government and particularly a Labour Government. As we all know the seamen received a sharp brush off—'If you go it, you go it alone'. In words which could be attributed to George Brown, they acted in a 'statesman-like and responsible manner'.

What about the official attitude of other unions? The majority, if they haven't already done so will

crawl behind the skirts of the TUC. The T&GWU will still back the seamen BUT only to the degree that they have done to date—'not doing work usually done by seamen'. Big deal! The Boilermakers have offered a loan, consciences are often paid for in hard cash.

What about the leaders of the NUR? I bet there were some dirty pants among that lot until the TUC gave them relief.

The reaction of foreign unions is anyone's guess, but you can rest assured the TUC's attitude will certainly give some of them an 'out'.

The national press are really pouring on the vitriol, they will use any excuse to hammer the workers, The Economist (11.6.66) really does them proud. It states, 'Other people should reject the report too. It is a disaster'. It then goes on to slate all concerned and ends by saying that the Government should reject the report, as the union has rejected it and that the maximum the Government should agree to is the over-generous original offer of the employers, and if necessary use its emergency powers. Don't let's kid ourselves—there are many people who think the same way!

There is a possibility of talks re-opening. The magic formula is still a secret, how far the rank and file will allow their executive to compromise (if at all) is a matter

for conjecture. The tragedy is that if the seamen are not careful they can be cut to pieces under the present circumstances. We can expect a certain amount of rank and file support from other unions, whether it could be sustained is another matter.

If the seamen's dispute has done nothing else it has exposed the URGENT need for a National Rank and File Movement, liaison between workers when in struggle. We have seen how the official leadership in every case fight shy of extending the dispute, they don't mind one union fighting in isolation, it's worth a few militant speeches in support, plus a few quid out of the union coffers, it keeps the militants and the Communist Party

And what of the Labour Government? If ever a Party has been shown for what it's worth, it's the Labour Party, as a miserable apologist for the capitalist system.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

#### STOP PRESS

At the time of going to press good support has been given by the dockers in London, Mersey and Hull. Support appears to be spreading but everything depends on the Seamen's Executive Meeting on Wednesday.

MICHAEL PERISTERAKIS, the active President of the Bertrand Russell Greek Society for Nuclear Disarmament, is to be tried by a permanent Court-Martial in Athens on June 15, for undertaking political activity while a soldier.

Michael, who was here this year for our Easter March, was demobilized in January, but in Greece a person can be court-martialled for up to 6 months after he has left the army.

He is charged under the Civil War Emergency Laws. The charge sheet, dated February 16, and which he received on May 28, six days after the Marathon March, accuses him of the following offences:—

1. That he expressed himself in conversation as a supporter of Papandreou (the Prime Minister of Greece who was forced to resign last summer by the King) against the Stephanopolis Government.

2. That he was an anarchist while in the army. The explanation of this charge that the authorities give is as follows: 'that he is an anarchist who favours as an ideal an alternative form of government to the present Stephanopolis coalition; this would require the take-over of power by a new political party,

### CAN WE HELP THIS MAN?

perhaps that of EDA (the United Democratic Left)'.

During the two years Michael was in the army he was persistently asked questions and asked for his opinion on political matters in Greece by two men whom he believed to be government agents. He says that at no time did he make any comment on what they asked other than that he wasn't interested. Nor, at any other time while he was in the army, did he undertake any political activities. Yet it is on the evidence of these two men, it is thought, that the case against Michael is based.

Michael Peristerakis is an inspiring, extremely energetic, able man in his midtwenties. He has a law degree from Athens University and now wishes to study sociology and related subjects for six years, the first two of which he hopes to spend at an English University.

Michael needs our help and the peace movement cannot afford to lose him. It is clear to those who have spoken to Michael that he is not an anarchist, but on the other hand he supports no political party and he distrusts all politicians. It is possible, we think, that he could get a sentence of 5 years or more.

Andrew Papworth, Secretary of the London Committee of 100, wrote on behalf of the Committee to the Ambassador requesting to discuss the matter with him. The following reply was received: 'I have your letter of June 7th 1966 and wish to advise you that I am not disposed to discuss with either you personally or members of your Committee matters coming under the jurisdiction of the judiciary of my country.' We would suggest that if you wish to help in any way you should write to the Greek Minister of National Defence, Mr. Stavros Kostopoulos, in Athens, or the Greek Embassy here, 51 Upper Brook Street, W.1, pointing out the injustice of this court-martial and asking for an explanation.

10.6.66 SUE ABRAHAMS.

(With acknowledgments to Bob Overy and Peace News.)

## Every Man his Own Bank

THE IRISH bank-clerks' strike which is now nearly a month old has had an interesting by-product. It has shown that the banks are not necessary.

A recent article by the Dublin correspondent of the Financial Times, entitled 'How to keep going without banks', describes what is happening to the Irish monetary system. The closure of the banks means that bank accounts can no longer be used. That is, if you write a cheque and give it to someone in payment for goods, he cannot exchange that cheque for an entry in the books of his own bank (i.e., a deposit) or for currency. This means that apart from currency held outside the banks at the beginning of the strike and English currency brought in by travellers (which is accepted in Ireland), there is no money. Since the proportion of all transactions carried out in cash is normally only a small part of the total of all monetary exchange, there is thus a shortage of money.

So what has happened? Simply this: people have started to issue their own money.

An employer (e.g. a brewery) now pays its workers by cheque, whereas previously they might have been paid in cash. The wage-earner can, if he has a (frozen) bank account, just hang on to this cheque, and pay his bills by writing his own cheques. The publican who gets these can in turn put them in a drawer, and pay the breweries with his own cheques. The breweries salt away the publicans' cheques and pay the workers' wages as at the beginning. The process is as simple as that.

If the worker does not have a chequebook to begin with, he can take his wagecheque to the pub direct, who can use it to pay the brewery, who can tear it up and write out a new one next week, or save paper by giving the same cheque (or a similar cheque) to the worker every week. And if his wage is, say, £12 a week, there is no reason why he should not be given twelve £1 cheques. And so on.

The logical next stage of this process is to abandon the formality of using cheques drawn on a bank and use promissory notes instead.

The difficulty of this system is obvious: if some irresponsible bastard issues cheques greater in value than he receives, then they will be dishonoured when the strike ends. But what if the banks never reopen? Then the acceptability of an individual's promissory notes will simply depend on people's judgment of his honesty—the notes need not be redeemable in banknotes (which are themselves only promissory notes; no currency is redeemable in anything else these days)—and the quantity of notes he issues. But if he is of impeccable character, what is to stop a man issuing more notes than he receives? The answer is, nothing at all; this is precisely what the banks do already.

The Irish are a trusting lot. Perhaps if a sufficient number of Irish bank-clerks get jobs in the breweries writing out cheques for the workers, the Irish banks will never reopen. In fact, it would be more profitable for them to stay shut, since they still get the difference between the interest on the loans they have made and the interest they pay (but do not pay out) on the deposits they hold—and they don't have to pay any wages.

Is there no catch? Yes there is. Being an unregenerate libertarian and not a dewy-eyed Kropotkinian, I cannot for-

Continued on page 4

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#### EXAMINATIONS are on the way. Examinations Not many people need look further than themselves to see the cost of exams in terms of physical and nervous wear and tear. It would be interesting to know just how overworked is student health with bona fide cases of mental

illness during the summer term of each

year. This is a good enough reason for

changing the system to something more

human. But what if this often intense

strain is for something almost as objec-

tive as a lottery? Consider these experi-

marks by 10 examiners.

1. A study done in 1936 on the

equivalent of 'O' Level showed that

out of 150 arithmetic scripts only

one candidate was given the same

Though 4 examiners at Edinburgh

in 1956 agreed on passing or failing

10 scripts out of a batch of 25,

they disagreed on the remaining 15.

Asked to re-mark the papers later,

one examiner failed 7 candidates

December at Edinburgh in 1956,

two large classes were given the

same examinations in Physics and

whom he passed the first time.

3. After a term examination early in

MY OWN MAG. Edited and Produced by

The Village FUGS. Broadside Records,

The FUGS. Ed Sanders and Tuli Kup-

THE MAN who protests is by virtue

isolation, join him and you destroy him.

Lenny Bruce knew this when he abused

his liberal-minded supporters, for once

the man in isolation finds himself with

sympathetic friends of the heart or of

the mind, he will then be reduced to the

role of the leading member of the clique,

the claque, the cabal and finally the

pressure group. The complexities of my

nature and of yours is such that if we

unite for a single cause we shall break up

again on the soft rocks of our own secret

inhibitions, or the cancer of our inner

mistrust must grow a little larger and

shine a shade more black. For twelve

years or more Jeff Nuttal, a stocky, good-

looking teacher, did as so many of us

do. He sent out his poetry, his prose

and his paintings to those faceless editors

and the sly dealers and watched with

jaundiced eye the sewerage of rejection

slips come seeping back. It was then

that he finally jumped into space by

deciding to produce his own magazine.

It was to be known as My Own

Mag (mom, mummy, mother, mater,

sober the old girl up, her beer's getting

cold) and its layout was to be a take off

of the weekly pulp magazines of the

Red Letter, Peg's Paper genre. Its very

crudity was its salvation for this badly

duplicated, at times almost literally un-

readable, magazine with its cheap paper

and its neurotic illustrations, has become

the spokesman for those of the uncom-

mitted who, refusing to conform, refuse

to reject the act of living. Nuttal has

written that his simple credo is that he

LIKES IT HERE and that man must

first come to terms with the inevitability

of his own partial failure before he can

think of transforming or transcending

our present evils. It must be subversion

not rejection, for Nuttal believes that

society, which is you and me, is not

only worth transforming but can be

transformed from within but in the

meantime he, rightly, cries let's have a

ball and it was for this most sensible of

of that very action the man of

ferberg. ESP-DISK' 1028.

Jeff Nuttal, 37 Salisbury Rd., Barnet.

ments:

No. 304.

students who passed in December would have failed the same paper in January.

It would seem then that examinations are not only a strain but a pointless one. We can see the doubtful reliability of essay type examinations and we can see that examinations just do not produce a durable level of knowledge corresponding to actual performance in later life. Indeed a social studies lecturer has investigated the performance of some of his students and found that the correlation of examination results with future performance may well be negative. A lecturer in the psychology department has said that the correlation between 'A' level performance and final degree performance is 'point nought bugger all'. So one result has low correlation with another and all results have low correlation with future performance.

marks was catastrophic. About 120 three-hour papers should be rejected. As that objectively scored multiple choice

it stands the examination system overrates instant glibness, photographic memory and the mere physical ability to write quickly. It does not measure a durable level of knowledge, nor the capacity of students for creative thinking and logical argument.

HOW SHOULD THE SYSTEM BE REFORMED?

H. B. Kitto, ex-Professor of Classics at Bristol University, suggested a very simple plan for examining his students. He told them, 'You know what you're worth and I know what you're worth. Let me write up your degree class on the notice board, and then if you disagree with it you can take the exam.' This method is no more arbitrary than the present system but a good deal less painful-perhaps it could be used until a more reasonable system is worked out.

Professor of the Psychology Depart-All in all, the evidence on examina- ment at Edinburgh University, is of the Psychology six weeks later. In tions points to the fact that the idea of opinion that essay-type examinations both cases the average drop on testing years of work in a marathon of waste the examiners' time, and suggests

would be allowed to use books. Though the marking of the essay would still be subjective, this would be balanced by the objective test. using a combination of four methods to test its students. These cover: (1) The conventional three-hour paper-which may be announced three days in advance;

> ten days with access to the library; (3) The submitting of three of any essays done while at the University; (4) A viva. Perhaps a combination of methods like this would be a fairer way of assessing people. It would certainly be less

> > rather like a puberty rite in its ritual and arbitrary nature.

We think the whole emphasis on grading, assessment and competition is both harmful and unnecessary to the University. We hope to develop these ideas in a later leaflet. But while the emphasis does remain, we believe there are methods of assessment which are both fairer and less of a strain on the student.

questions should be used to test factual

knowledge. Since scoring is objective

they are highly reliable. Also, to test

capacity for creative thinking and logi-

cal argument, an essay on a single topic

could be used. For this the student

The English Department at York is

(2) Answers to questions prepared over

brutal than the present system which is

This information on examinations is not new, and some staff members are aware of the limitations of the examinations system as it stands. But they cannot or will not do anything alone to make the necessary changes.

And these methods should be used here.

It is imperative that students put pressure on the staff until they have an effective voice on joint staff-student working groups which can implement the wishes of the students.

The Union, DIRECT ACTION SOCIETY. The University of Leeds

state of disgrace. We can conceivably shake off our humiliation by having a ball here in the charnel house, make party streamers of our evils and explode our anxieties like balloons. Thus we might ultimately shake off the death wish of which the bomb is the only one of many emanations. One agrees or disagrees but one cannot ignore Nuttal's claim to be heard.

And from across the waters comes the voices of Tuli Kupferberg and Ed Sanders. Tuli on tambourine and Ed for the vocals as part of the FUGS ensemble. Their reputations and their writings have the vocals as part of the FUGS ensemble. long preceded them and it must surely be the measure of their success that their POP? appearance at the Traverse Theatre on June 20 is still in doubt depending on the issuing of permits by the Authorities. The Village FUGS, as they were first called, made their bow under the label of Broadside Records, a subsidiary of Folkways Records, an outbeat organisation run by Moe Asch, the son of the Jewish writer. It is a company that would appear to press literally anything that makes a sound and it did this by virtue of the fact that it is prepared to listen to and accept pre-taped work.

In 1964 Ed Sanders, the editor of Fuck You magazine, or F... You magazine to quote the current number of P..... Eye, assembled the first Village Fugs group to provide a musical background for the poetry of Swinburne, Blake and Kupferberg. It was a slight thing in itself, and one could go back to Edith Sitwell's Facade for a forerunner but with this difference—that the FUGS accept the poetry of these men reasons that he created My Own Mag, and hold up to public contempt and for he has written I wanted to have a ridicule the whole morass of commercial party. We are, in Western society, in a protest, the nasal bleating of the Dylans

and the sweet talking swineherds, the jug-blowing city cowboys and the hymnsinging god lovers from New York's Deep South. It was a gay record that took the piss out of an industry hawking sentimentality as a supermarket handout at the conscience counter.

The Village FUGS in their second record dropped the adjective village and the guitarists Pete Stampfel and Steve Weber, replacing them with Lee Crabtree, and now appear under the label of ESP-DISK' 1028 which is a minor mystery in its own right for ESP is a recording company of the more esoteric avant garde sounds of our century. But again the FUGS have succeeded, for in their suite the Virgin Forest they show a controlled mastery over their instruments and their medium. But it is not for this that they have built up their reputation and, as with the first record, it is the written words of Sanders and Kupferberg that enrages those who hand out work permits. Yet the audience for the FUGS is an adult, sophisticated and literary audience, for the young, as in so many other things, practice that for which their elders give lip service too.

Proby and Mick Jagger, with their brand of randy hooliganism, nightly mock the Establishment and their erotic miming to an orgiastic musical beat has earned the open hatred not only of Authority but of many a liberal-minded doyen of the arts who will accept the intellectual content of the written word yet will throw up at the sight of young people weaving before the swaying chanting bodies of Jagger or Proby, for bear this in mind-it is Proby and the Stones who have been barred from halls and hotels for ignoring the accepted mores of our society, and it is the young who have defended them not the literati.

In this record by the FUGS, however, we are given a new understanding and appreciation of the poetry of Sanders and Kupferberg. The sad and beautiful Morning and the hysterical Kill, as a substitute for the sexual act, flow from this platter with the Dirty old man 'looking up every dress I can' and Group Grope a title that needs no explanation. This record by the FUGS is a platform of protest and affirmation. Let it become their manifesto by our open support for these seven people and the stand that they have taken.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

#### CAMPAIGN AGAINST FRENCH TESTS

LONDON to Paris Walk is being organised by both the French and the British movement. The French movement are basing their whole campaign on this Walk, which starts on Thursday, June 30, and will be scheduled to arrive in Paris on July 14, which is Bastille Day. (The French movement asked us to arrive then, and they will be organising demonstrations about the tests.) The Channel crossing will be via Newhaven and Dieppe. Sue Abrahams (just back from Greece), has agreed to work full time organising the Walk. The Committee of 100 wants to hear from: (a) people who can walk all or part of the way; (b) someone who could provide the walkers with a baggage and banner vehicle all or part of the way; and (c) people who can either send a donation or suggest how they might raise finances to cover the cost of the Walk.

#### THIS SATURDAY!

Picket at French Government Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, from 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. on Saturday, June 18. Organised by Campaign against French Tests.

#### JUST PUBLISHED:

A pamphlet discussing the implications of the proposed French Nuclear Tests. Foreword by Douglas Kepper. Cover by Arthur Moyse, Price one shilling. Published by 'Anarchist Opinion', c/o 17a Maxwell Road, S.W.6.

#### **Anarchist Federation of Britain**

**Embleton** 

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.

JUNE 19 Ted Kavanagh (chair) Poetry Reading. Admission 2/6d. JUNE 26 A Discussion The Seamen's Strike

Public Meetings every Sunday Hyde Park, 3 p.m.

#### 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. 3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald and Irene Rooum's, 148a Fellows Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3. WANDSWORTH LIBERTARIANS. Correspondence to Christine Hutton, 15 Broughton Street,

#### London, S.W.8. 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, BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnehurst,

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence: Martin Bragg, 5 The Drive, Hunton Hill, Erdington, Birmingham, 23. Sales and Committee of 100: Gordon Causer, 27 Upper Gungate, Tamworth, Staffs. Peace Action Centres Project: Paul James, 50 Windermere Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, 21. University of Aston Group: Dave Massey, 5 Gladstone Road, Erdington, Birmingham, 23.

BRISTOL FEDERATION. Enquiries to Ian Vine, 3 Freeland Place, Hotwells, Bristol, 8. CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike Crowley, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff. COVENTRY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Richard Vaughan, 19 Sandhurst Grove, Radford, Coventry. Coventry 28146. 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 Baliol Street every two weeks. Contact Joe

HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. 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,

LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13. 61b Granville Park. NEW HAM LIBERTARIANS. Contact Nick Shenker, 122 Hampton Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7.

NORTH-WEST ESSEX. Meetings on the first

Saturday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at Robert

Peter Gibbon, 22 Fosse Road Central, West End,

NOTTING HILL LIBERTARIANS. Meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month, at the London Free School, 26 Powis Terrace, London, W.11 (off Talbot Road) 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, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon.

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.

#### NORTH-WEST FEDERATION NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION.

Regional Secretary: J. Bromley, 44 Doncaster Avenue, Manchester, 20. Buxton: Chris Berrisford, 10 Byron Street, Buxton. Chorley: Alistair Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley. Manchester: Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road, Droylesden, Manchester. Meetings every Tuesday 8 p.m. Lord Nelson, Chapel Street, Salford. Merseyside: Barbara Renshaw, 4 Clarence Road, Devonshire Park, Birkenhead. Rochdale: Ian Heywood, 16 Mansfield Road, Bamford, Rochdale. Stoke-on-Trent: 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 Stephen Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.

#### WEST LONDON FEDERATION

WEST LONDON FEDERATION. Monday, June 20, 8 p.m. at the Anchor, Ealing Broadway. Discussion . 'Vote Labour' with Frank Rowe ('Socialist Current').

Barltrop's, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Huggon, 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.

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

#### PROPOSED GROUPS

FULHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact top floor, 31 Ongar Road, S.W.6. HULL GROUP. Get in touch with John

Tempest, 89 Fountain Road, Beverley Road, MARLOW AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. Get in touch with Stella A. Fauser, 33a Spittal Street,

Marlow, Bucks. SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE. Get in touch with Eric Harrison, 2 Cottage Aylesmore Farm,

Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire. TYNESIDE SYNDICALISTS. Meet every Thursday at 8 p.m. in The Adelaide, Newgate Street, Newcastle, 1

#### **ABROAD**

AUSTRALIA. Sydney Anarchist Group. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain at 2 p.m. Group meetings every Monday at 8 p.m. in the Cellar, 72 Oxford St., Sydney.

DANISH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. 52 Mindevej, Soborg-Copenhagen, Denmark.

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

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA. Anyone interested in forming anarchist and/or direct action peace group contact Derek A. James, 1844 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Tel.: 987-2693.

## King Hill Husbands Jailed

MR. JUSTICE BLAINE has committed two men to prison for contempt of court for the crime of visiting and sleeping with their wives at King Hill Hostel. This in spite of the fact that one of them, Mr. Stanley Daniels, now lives in Penge many miles from the Hostel and at the moment is too ill to be moved into prison. And in spite of the fact that the evidence of the other husband, Mr. Roy Mills, that he was given permission to return to the Hostel to look after his children was corroborated in the witness box by the Warden in charge of the Hostel.

The FRIENDS OF KING HILL wish to express their condemnation of this renewed attempt by the Kent County Council to separate homeless families at King Hill. In particular we blame the Minister of Health, Mr. Kenneth Robinson, for his continued and cowardly refusal to exercise his powers under Section 36 of the National Assistance Act of 1948, to prevent this monstrous perversion of justice, in spite of his protestations of sympathy and concern.

For further information contact 5 Clock House Road, Beckenham, Kent (BEC 7517).

### Brixton Demonstration

Prison last Sunday in support of the husbands jailed for contempt of court after visiting their families, at King Hill Hostel for the Homeless.

The action began with a meeting on the steps of Lambeth Town Hall during which a policeman attempted to intimidate a newsman taking pictures.

As the march set off passers-by were leafletted, and told of conditions at King Hill through a loud hailer.

When the prison was reached, messages of support were sent to the imprisoned

IN SPITE of short notice, about 80 men via the loudspeaker (in answer there people attended a march to Brixton were cheers from inside the prison) and leaflets were distributed to nearby houses (many of which are occupied by prison warders). After a letter had been handed in to the Governor, the march returned to Lambeth Town Hall.

> On the way it passed a green where a Billy Graham Crusade Meeting was being held. When Jim Radford attempted to use the loudspeaker to tell the Crusade's audience of conditions at King Hill, he was threatened with arrest. However the march ended quietly at the Town Hall.

> > **BOOK REVIEW**

## HOMOSEXUALITY DEFENDED

In Defense of Homosexuality Male and Female by R. O. D. Benson. Julian Press Inc., New York, 1965. \$5.95. THIS is a really startling and amazing

book. Every few years there must happen a fairy-tale materialisation of the complete and perfect debunking of all our set ideas, ideals, values, prejudices, the whole lot. In fact, the famous Homosexual Hans Christian Andersen in the wonderful story 'The Emperor's Cloth' has described just this situation, where the great Emperor struts around in his underclothes but he has conditioned everyone to admire his fabulous cloth. Everybody dutifully lines the streets admiring the Emperor and his cloth, and only a child suddenly cries: 'But he has got on nothing but his pants!'

> Thus Benson—all the aspects of tomes over tomes on homosexuality have suddenly lost their raison d'être. With unsentimental convincing logic he denudes the falsities preached on Natural Law, on God's Law, on Science's Law; he corrodes the pomposities of clerical, medical, legal authorities, and the challenge remains: I want to love in my own fashion, who can tell me why I should not, I must not, what damage I do, where is the offence, how dare a sick society pour guilt and fear and hatred into me, only because I do not conform to their horrifying moralistic muddle.

The book shows the correlation of the handling of the problem of contraception and homosexuality, in the last analysis a condemnation of pleasure in one's sex life. The idea that homosexuality is a sickness or a disease is individual to find his own happiness. flaw in medical, or psychological, thinking as he shows it in mathematical, tive.' philosophical and scientific judgments,

namely that they are based ultimately on emotional and irrational 'value' judgments and not on direct observation and cautious interpretation. His leg-pull on resistance, this wonderful weapon of the psychoanalysts against everyone who does not agree with them, is a master-

From our point of view, it is a most valuable contribution. It is this rarity, a courageous book. I do not think that everyone will necessarily agree with Benson's views, although I think everybody will agree with his conclusions. I, for one, think that in a sick society, one's sexuality is fundamentally brought into dysfunction, mirroring the sickness of society in each individual as one grows up, I follow here Reich's teaching to a certain, but especially in respect to homosexuality very limited, extent. This sickness makes all of us unable to be primarily orgastically potent, and evokes a host of secondary reaction-patterns, of which homosexuality is one. I agree that it is not a sickness per se, I agree that there is no reason why it should not be lived fully and enthusiastically by whosoever wants it. But it may be somewhat rash to declare that to reestablish—as it was once basically the love-pattern of ancient Greece-its universal practice would bring us anywhere nearer towards the breaking-up of the factors that make our society sick.

I must honour Benson, however, that he does not make such claims. He wants: 'The battle of the Homosexual is really a part of the greater war of those who fight for the right of an then to fight for that right is my objec-

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#### denied by Benson. He shows the same If sex can bring happiness to people,

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#### 'German Cowboy Craze Gathering Force' -The Times

IT WAS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK and the Government decided to think again about Eldo; the TUC thought they wouldn't help the Seamen's Strike, Mr. Robert Kennedy thought apartheid was a bad thing, somebody thought it a good idea to take a pot shot at James Meredith, Martin Luther King thought it was a good idea to get in on the act; several prisoners thought it was a good idea to try to escape and Billy Graham went on trying to save Britain, he was backed by a New York Times correspondent who thought that Britain did not take her crises seriously and many newspapers thought that Mr. Harold Wilson was in for trouble and the Daily Mirror (without benefit of Graham) thought up a new commandment, the eleventh 'Thou shalt not quench thy thirst until thou balanceth thy payments' making some obscure reference to Kipling's 'Ship me somewhere East of Suez'. . . .

the Kipling image and separated the men from the boys and thought the Girl Guides should participate in more joint activities. It is being discussed whether Lady Chatterley's Lover should be translated once more, this time with feelinginto Braille. The BBC decided to go Up the Junction once more and Radio Luxembourg decided to drop religious programmes, transmitted to Britain. . .

SOME MONTHS AGO Mike Williams-Thompson, a 'profound Christian' (his own description), discussed the case for Christianity in ITV's Dialogue with Doubt with Colin Wilson (who spoke as a humanist). Apparently Colin Wilson got the better of the argument and it was explained that because of 'an unusual technical flaw it was necessary to re-record the programme. For this purpose Mr. Williams-Thompson was dropped and the religious adviser to Rediffusion (a clergyman—what else?) was substituted. The producer explained: 'I showed the [original] programmes to a member of my religious advisory panel

immediately, and the director and I came reluctantly to the conclusion that we would be severely criticized and might even risk having to withdraw the series, unless we could ensure that Colin Wilson's arguments were refuted more strongly, from an orthodox standpoint, and supported by the weightiest theological argument.' According to the Sunday Telegraph the Billy Graham Crusade faces a loss of £25,000 on the London campaign. A spokesman said, 'When God starts blasting, the money will pour in.' It had previously been denied that Billy Graham and his team were making money out of the crusade. It was stated that Dr. Graham's salary is paid by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of America. He is paid £7,000 a year, plus expenses. Earlier it was stated that Dr. Graham and his team received their salaries in America, and they were in London at their own expense—it was not explained whether they get holidays with THE scours on the other hand dropped pay—and when is an expense not an expense? . . .

> PROTESTANTS IN BELFAST, Northern Ireland, were attacked by Catholics, when protesting about 'Romanist tendencies' in the Irish Presbyterian Church. Demonstrators in Peking protested about 'bourgeois royalists' reported to be harboured in the University. On June 4 a red and black flag was seen to be flying from the School Hall dome. . . .

> MR. EDWARD HEATH, leader of the Conservative Party was referred to in a television play as a 'grammar school twit'. The producer has been told by the BBC to modify his language. Another play (already recorded) refers to Mr. Heath as 'a grammar school nit'. . . .

for walking naked at midnight through the streets of Bedford. He gave his name as Kenneth Bacchus. . . .

A 26-YEAR-OLD LABOURER was fined £5

AN AUSTRALIAN TYPIST was fined for running coated with red paint which she

smeared on Australian soldiers returning from Vietnam. Two children with burndisfigured faces were flown in from Vietnam for plastic surgery at a hospital in East Grinstead. . . .

THE MORNING STAR (née the Daily Worker) of June 9 prints a picture of David Kerr, MP, trying out a stretcher attached to an ambulance for Vietnam presented by the Printers' Movement for Peace. Everyone in the picture seems highly amused. It could, of course, be the note under the picture which reads: 'It will be used in North Vietnam as the state of the roads and the continuous bombing in South Vietnam makes the use of an ambulance impossible. But the equipment and drugs sent with the ambulance will go to the Liberation Red Cross in South Vietnam.' . . .

ACCORDING TO THE Evening Standard tension is growing between the US and Canadian Governments over the number of 'draft dodgers' slipping across the border into Canada to evade service in the US army. The Canadian Prime Minister has demanded an apology from the FBI for threatening a 21-year-old boy who was wanted in the US for failing to register for the draft. The Student Union for Peace Action at Toronto University is reported to be assisting draftees. 'We tell them how to become landed immigrants. We arrange for them to get work and apartments here. We estimate that about four hundred Americans will be coming to Toronto as soon as the college semester

Two young scientists have discovered a process for making protein foodstuffs from natural gas. The New Statesman carries the following advert: 'FREEZE AT DEATH. Revive in future (we hope). Non profit. (Newsletter yr. 15s. IMO). LES, 209 Neath Road, Swansea, Glamor-

JON QUIXOTE.

Good Life-Wonderful Life. (Shown at a private view in Wardour Street. Produced by Jimmy Vaughn and others.) THIS is a film about the horrors and

consequences of war and militarism set against the inane chatter of the Soho lumpen bourgeoisie enjoying themselves at a deadly boring party. The forcedly frivolous conversations are repeatedly interrupted by telling old newsreels of Hitler's rise to power, his charismatic appeal, the subsequent war and toll on human life, with frightening shots of concentration camps and of the Warsaw Ghetto. This is followed up by the ultimate horror of Hiroshima, contrasting the Soho ladies' and gentlemen's

#### TRAPPING **GHOSTS AT** ALCONBURY

A LCONBURY is a village about 20 miles from Cambridge, England. It is also a huge USAF base. The Committee of 100, a libertarian organization concerned with the resistance by nonviolent means of Nuclear States East and West, will on July 3 of this year (which is a Sunday) have a demonstration at this base. Assemble on the green opposite Huntingdon bus station at 2 p.m. The committee is intending to hire a double decker bus to go to Alconbury. (Telephone ARC 1239 for details.)

Civil Disobedience is not planned for this date — the demonstration will be basically a march from the village and a picket or assembly outside the boundary wire. It is intended to have tea on a neighbouring grass verge and to invite the people on the base to join. A long, low mound runs parallel to the wire on the other side of the road. Nothing so extraordinary about that you say-been done before: the Crap Press, the feeder and manipulator of opinions, will mention but lightly or ignore altogether.

Therefore many new ideas have been discussed. Allen Ginsberg suggested the following to Dick Wilcocks who is organising a 'happening' to coincide with the committee's demo. Says Ginsberg: The main thing is to channel activity into real gaiety like free picnic and avoid angst and hostilities to people who don't understand that there's no threat.'

He suggests a tantric demonstration using 'some kind of ghost trap or a striking, harmless ritual'.

M.H.

#### THE DEADLY AND THE DYING

apparent unconcern with the dedicated protests in Japan, US and this country.

The film has been ready for distribution for some time now, but the monopoly capitalists that control the film industry are putting up as much resistance to it as the BBC exerted against the 'War Game'. There is a chance however that a specialist cinema may screen it in the autumn.

One has one's reservations about the film, whether it is fair to blame even such a decadent society for the horrors of war. The 'War Game's' attack was stronger, because it put the establishment on the carpet. Who is more guilty, the uninformed or he who withholds information?

But such discussions, and there will be plenty, should come after the film is shown.

The newsreels are especially well chosen. There is a sequence of a little boy in the Warsaw Ghetto, bodies everywhere, misery and starvation and slowly, stubbornly, he dances to entertain those who are still alive. A blasted little anarchist who will not be coerced.

Although the newsreels were meant to interrupt the 'party', it is the inanity of the party that jars the honest approach of the newsreels.

But there are many good touches. There is the dark-haired girl with a funny voice and contorted face who is the 'conscience' of these people—a very polite conscience albeit like a bad journalist asking roundabout questions. For this she must ingratiate herself with

GIRCULATION

FIRST STEP

TOWARDS

A BIGGER

FREEDOM!

IS THE

the opposition, the unfeeling males to whom war is an unavoidable necessity, God's way of thinning the population. If the men are trite she must be trite as well on the principle that you can only talk to people on their 'own level'.

There is also a wizened middle-aged man, who . . . has a curious obsession with rats. He meets them at the seaside, he eats them in sandwiches, he is impressed by the love of mother rats for their babies. 'They make good mothers,' he says rather wistfully.

The 'hard ones' at the party are the men who fought in wars but to whom war had 'little' to do with killing. One clever man ventures to say that the average soldier did no more than 'six hours' fighting' during the course of the Second World War. Another man admits to being exhilarated at the moment of killing 'when he is in my rifle's sight and it is up to me whether I kill or not'.

The newsreels bring you back to the reality of war, the thin little children, the delicate naked bodies molested, killed and wheeled to mass cemeteries.

JOHN RETY.

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WEEK 23, JUNE 11, 1966:

Expenses: 23 weeks at £80:

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TOTAL: £18 2 9 Previously Acknowledged: £422 15 3

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\*Denotes regular cont ibutors.

## Site Organisation Struggle

RASIC WAGES for building workers are not only low compared with other industries but, bad as this may be, it is made worse by the wage differential that exists between craftsmen and labourers. This now stands at a shilling an hour giving labourers 6s. 1d. and craftsmen 7s. 1d. In order to make this into a living wage, bonuses (whether standing or incentive) are negotiated and overtime (that curse of the industry) has to be worked.

This lower basic wage gives rise to a lot of disputes over bonus rates. Employers realise that once their jobs become organised it is not long before the men are pressing for a decent bonus scheme. Building

#### Contact Column

Lancaster Summer Work-Camp. University building adventure playground. Needs workers and financial help. Get in touch with M. G. White.

Intelligent mother-substitute. (With or without own child) urgently wanted to care for 5-year-old girl who cannot understand why her mother left her. West country, Box No. 31.

Poetry and Jazz. Ilford Libertarians. Poetry and Jazz. 7.30 p.m., July 2, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1. Mike Osborne Quartet. Adrian Mitchell, Joe Shearns and Dick Wilcox. Mike Horowitz with Workers' Cast Experimental Drama Group. Tickets 4/- and 6/- from Freedom Press.

Centenary Lectures NSS. Friday, June 24. Freethought and Law Reform. Anthony Grey and Diane Munday. 7.30 p.m. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Sleeping Accommodation. Sleeping accommodation required in Central London from August 1-7 for £3. No food required. Write to Robert Halstead, 27 Woodlands Rise. Haworth, Keighley, Yorks.

Fallex. Fallex and other Official Secrets sent under plain cover. Sample obtainable, 9d. (including postage) from Ipswich Anarchists, 68 Christchurch Street, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Bookshop, Glasgow. An attempt is being made to open a peace bookshop in Scotland Street, Glasgow. Much money is needed to start this shop which will be run on a workers' control basis. Donations please to Larry Hutchinson, 204 Castlemilk Drive, Glasgow, S.5.

croft on 'Anarchism and the Absurd'. Manchester Poetry. Northern rendezvous for Poetry, Folk and 'happenings' Thursdays 8 p.m. Packhorse Hotel, Bridge Street, off Deansgate, Manchester, 2/-.

Stickers. POLICE BRUTALITY IS FACT, JUSTICE IS FICTION. ANARCHY IS FREEDOM. 25/per 1,000. Contact Box 31.

Accommodation available for girl. West London Community. Rent £2 10s. Box 32.

Room and Work. Woman reader (midforties) will need room and work when leaves psychiatric hospital. Offers of either or both to Box 30.

Hospitality wanted. Sixteen-year-old comrade (male) from Paris would like to stay with family during summer vacation. Write Box 29.

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 MBA 1872.

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.

W you wish to make contact let us know.

managements do not mind the unions and the rounds of negotiations, but object to well-organised rank and file on their sites.

#### BARBICAN PLUMBERS

In order to stop this happening, the management will get up to all the tricks, dodges and stonewalling imaginable. For instance, it took over three months for plumbers employed by Audreys, on the Laing Barbican site, to get a changing-hut. Soon after they had got themselves organised the firm transferred three of the plumbers to another site on the understanding that these men would be brought back to the site in preference to the employment of new men. However, two block foremen were taken on and the rest of the plumbers stopped work only returning when the firm signed an agreement that 'Mr. Devonshire (the agent) would not employ new labour until the transferred men be given the opportunity of returning'.

However, on May 17, they broke this agreement, starting two plumbers and mates, and the men came out on strike again. The dispute has been brought before the Regional Dispute Commission, who decided in favour of the plumbers. Union officials have asked the firm to transfer the two plumbers, but so far the request has been ignored and they have refused to meet the unions. In a leaflet, the plumbers say, 'The men saw this as an attempt by the firm to prejudge the findings of the commission and a further attempt to break up the site organisation and so they refused to return to work'. The union officials, tied to their 'green-book dispute procedure' have, of course, told the plumbers to return to work.

#### FOR PARITY OF EARNINGS

At the Brunel University site at Hillingdon, Middlesex, plumbers, employed by Davis Ltd., are on strike over a claim for the introduction of an incentive bonus scheme to yield a parity of earnings with the rest of the site. The management have offered a scheme which would yield 25% on the basic wage, but with the fixing of targets and measurements, etc., this would not be operative for another three weeks. The plumbers asked that this 25% should be guaranteed as an interim payment now until the bonus scheme started, but this was turned down.

In most cases the plumbers are employed by sub-contractors, who try to get away with paying less than the main contractors. Parity of earnings is of prime importance, not only to bring up the lower-paid worker, but also to help create solidarity and unity on the job. This unity has been achieved on the Hillingdon site, for the rest of the men are giving substantial financial support and have pledged strike action if other plumbers are brought

Yet another dispute in London is on the Taylor Woodrow site in Leadenhall Street, the job which

#### **EVERY MAN HIS OWN BANKER**

Continued from page

bear to speculate on the probability that some people, perhaps the former bankclerks, will specialise in the issue of notes, and other people, with less literary inclinations, will pay them for doing so. Thus will a new banking system be born. Further, the issue of notes, as it increases (being a profitable business). will cause prices to rise; a new central note-issuing authority will emerge, to impose its restrictions on the anarchist bankers. The Iron Law of Oligarchy asserts itself amongst bankers as well as amongst workers.

BRON SHATOV.

recently had nation-wide publicity when four men stayed up on a crane in order to draw attention to their grievances. But grievances still exist and although Bro. Emberton, the steel fixers' shop steward, was re-employed, other disputes have arisen.

These again centre around an attempt by the management to break up organisation on the job by the same method of transfers as outlined above. After complaining that some men were not working hard enough, the management transferred five men and brought others onto the site. Now the management is refusing outright to bring one of these five men back to the site. The union, the Transport and General Workers', or the Federation do not want to know and have allowed the management to employ other steel fixers for week-end work. Union officials have threatened other stewards on the job with withdrawal of credentials if they give support to the steel fixers, who have been told by union and Federation officials that they are 'too militant' and should be ready to 'compromise' a bit.

#### A HARD STRUGGLE

If building workers just relied on union officials and the procedure to get them anything, then they would be in a sorry state. Where the job is well organised, good wages and conditions can be won but, as the steel fixers know, it can be and usually is a hard struggle, with the employer digging his heels in all along the line.

Building sites, unlike most factories, have a continual turnover of labour, which makes union organisation difficult. Basic necessities, such as washing facilities, which are taken for granted in a factory, are often only got after numerous wrangles, even though their provision is written into the joint employers' and unions' Working Rule Agreement.

It is important for building workers to organise and shape an effective means of struggle to win demands. The rank and file have an increasing awareness that this is the only way to ensure good wages and conditions and to prevent being shuttled from job to job at the whim of the employer. This will also prevent any more long term wage agreements which are aimed at retaining the Cost of Living Sliding Scale which is due to end in 1968. These issues and the question of labour-only sub-contracting are facing the building workers and so every effort must be made to achieve strong rank and file organisation on the sites.

Any readers wishing to assist the plumbers in the Barbican dispute can send money to: Mr. R. G. Simms, 57 Morecambe Close, Elm Park, Essex.

P.T.

## For Workers' Control

JUNE 18 1966 Vol 27 No 19

## Busmen Swallow Stinking Fish

IT LOOKS as though Brown and Jones have won another victory with their incomes' policy trick. Not only have they pulled the wool over the eyes of officials of the Transport and General Workers' Union (an easy thing to do anyway), but they have also taken in the delegates of the busmen. Perhaps the offer of 6.6%, about £1 per week, seemed too good to be true, but we think that the productivity strings attached to the raise cancel out the monetary gain.

With this new agreement the London Transport Board will be introducing 'oneman' Green Line coaches, relaxing the rules concerning standing passengers, both on country and Central London buses, and making further cuts in services.

Originally, in March of this year, the LTB had agreed to pay a straight increase of £1 per week, but the Government stepped in and the Prices and Incomes Board was asked to investigate the settlement. Following the publication of its report Mr. Jack Jones, Assistant Secretary of the T&GWU, said, 'We are not going to be bound by this report.' But the union has accepted its recommendations and it is ironic that this is one of the unions that are against the Government's Incomes Policy.

#### A DIFFERENT STORY

While the T&GWU officials have accepted on behalf of the London busmen, officials of the same union have rejected the offer of 3-3½%, with productivity strings, for municipal busmen. Why, in the first place, are the municipal busmen offered less? It's not because they think that London busmen are worth more, but this was the smallest figure the PIB thought they could get away with. If all busmen could have got together, linking up the garages both in London and other cities and organising at rank and file level, then this might have been a different story.

Many busmen must be thinking that while their union says one thing about the Incomes Policy, it does another when the chips are down. But the T&GWU have always had the face-saver of higher productivity linked with higher wages. This is just a means to sell an agreement and while they can do this and so easily, they still cannot get out a separate union journal to deal with the problems of the busmen.

The LTB are now publishing their own new and free magazine called BUS-MAN in which they themselves are selling something. If the art of advertising is the ability to sell stinking fish as Sunset Salmon then the LTB must surely win the drooping palm, not for what they said but for what they did not say. They stated that there will be more cuts in bus services and therefore in the number of crews, that overtime will become a permanent feature of the job and that if, through traffic congestion or any other reason, a bus crew is late coming off for their meal relief, that time will be deducted from their meal relief as long as it is not below the minimum forty minutes.

From all over London came the sounds of screaming as the men read in the free official handout and when the damage was done, the union belatedly announced that the loss of meal relief would not be compulsory but voluntary and paid for at overtime rate. Once again an employer, by suggestion, is using the cancer of overtime to eat away years of hard won privileges by playing on the greed of a majority or minority of work-

#### CONDITIONS WILL WORSEN

It is no wonder that LTB have difficulty in getting and keeping employees when men are expected to work under such conditions, which are likely to worsen considerably when the LTB go to town on this new agreement. It is time that the busmen learned to stop telling the Government how to run its breaking down transport service and concentrated on their own problems of pay and conditions. If passengers are prepared to hang ten deep from the sides of the bus or wait ten to sixty minutes for a single crowded bus, then let that be their problem for the busmen must accept that they cannot keep on using other people's conditions as a bargaining weapon, even if the Government does. Wages and conditions must be fought for, win, lose or draw. It is the only reason that we crawl out of bed at 4.30 in the morning and not to tell the LTB how to run their buses.

In 1965, the LTB made £5,500,000 profit and handed back £6,500,000 to the shareholders, etc., without asking the busmen for their advice. In an industry that, with Government support, will not honour its agreements, that can recruit 7,382 men in one year while 7,587 throw the job in, that can talk of permanent overtime and the use of casual labour, and has lost any feeling or desire for loyalty from its manual workers, there is only one answer, and that is to fight on their territory but with their weapons. We sell our labour in the open market. So no free samples, but top prices for old sweat! A.M. P.T.

#### YET ANOTHER LOBBY

THERE is to be another lobby of Parliament on June 22 against the Government's intentions of passing legislation to enforce its Incomes Policy. The sponsors are the Port of London Docks Liaison Committee, the London Building Workers' Joint Sites Committee, the ENV. EMI and Hawker Siddeley (Kingston) Shop Stewards' Committees, the Exhibition Workers' Co-ordinating Committee, the London Shop Stewards' Defence Committee and the London Metal Workers' Committee.

I have, on other occasions, written against the idea of a Lobby of MPs because the waiting and queueing is a frustrating experience, without any guarantee of achieving the object and even if you do manage to see your MP, he or she is more likely to follow the Party Whip than consider your views. It is also a means of channelling off protest which could be used more effectively if directed at other targets.

This lobby will be even less effective than the one which took place on March 1 because there is no preceding

march. To make this lobby 'ten times bigger' than the last is just wishful thinking and it is sad because the original intention was to have a demonstration on the preceding Sunday as well as a march and the Lobby on June 22. Of course, all those represented on the sponsoring committees are not in favour of the tame visit to the 'gas-works', but I'm afraid our more constitutionallyminded brothers had their way.

However, the latter have won the day, but in so doing, I know they will lose considerable support from workers who are not in favour of being ushered down the passages of Westminster, but want to show and voice their opposition and protest through the streets.

A Lobby can only contain the growing opposition to the Government's legislation. Surely we want to make it grow until, by the threat, or the taking of direct action, Wilson, Gunter and Brown are forced to abandon their plans of fettering the Labour Movement.

P. TURNER.

# DISCUSSES

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