

CO-OPERATIVE HOSTEL

AT PRESENT, when a family becomes homeless in Kent, from whatever cause—bad luck or bad judgement—unless friends or relatives can take them in, they have to resort to 'Part III accommodation'.

That is, the welfare authority (in this case the KCC) is obliged to provide temporary accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act, and this Kent does at the King Hill Hostel at West Malling.

A recent pamphlet, 'KCC versus the Homeless', has sought to bring to public attention the shortcomings of this establishment and many people have been shocked to realise the degree of hardship which homeless families in Kent endure. Although King Hill has become well known through the active campaign waged in Kent to prevent children being taken into County Council care after 12 weeks at the hostel, there are counties and boroughs with less adequate provision for the homeless than Kent, and few places in the prosperous South East are better. An improvement here could influence the whole situation of people affected by the shortage of low rent housing.

There are different interpretations of the National Assistance and Children's Acts and different opinions of what the Local Authorities' moral obligations are towards the homeless, but it is undeniable that many people at King Hill Hostel are dissatisfied with it, and are only there because they have absolutely no alternative. It would benefit everybody if King Hill were not the 'end of the road' but there were some choice open to a family faced with being put onto the street.

I propose that a new 'co-operative' hostel should be set up to cater for similar needs as King Hill, but in a different way. At least the amount of emergency accommodation would be increased, thus relieving pressure on time and space at King Hill—at best, the opportunity would be presented for homeless people to help themselves and create an organisation capable of improving the quality of service that the homeless are in need of.

The co-operative hostel would provide a service complementary to that of the official institution. While it would not have the weight of the official welfare organisation behind it, nor real influence with local housing authorities, it would be free of the political pressure that makes King Hill deliberately austere so that people should be discouraged from resorting to it unless in the direst need.

The only limit on the comfort of the accommodation would be financial; residents would be encouraged to make themselves as comfortable as possible. Because it would not be legally bound to keep space in reserve against disaster.

fire and flood, it would not be necessary to hasten people out who needed time to build up their resources and find permanent homes themselves. The length of stay would be the decision of the residents. It could be recognised from the start that some families might, for reasons of their own, become virtually permanent and they might in effect become part of the staff.

Most important of all, the hostel would be run by and for the residents, calling on such outside help as they require, rather than being run as an obligation by an authority somewhat remote from the problem of homelessness.

How could it be done?

The general framework would be a form of Housing Association. There is a National Federation of Housing Societies which can give technical advice on the foundation and running of a Housing Association and which provides a well worked out set of rules which satisfy legal requirements and enables money to be obtained on loan for purchasing or building premises, when a scheme has been worked out.

This can be thought out under three related headings—

the method of operation;
physical environment and premises;
finance.

Operation of the co-operative hostel would differ from the KCC hostel in several fundamental ways. Residents would not be licensees of a welfare provision, but tenants of a housing association with the rights and responsibilities that that implies. The tenants would be in charge of the hostel, and would have the assistance of such staff as were needed.

The staff might merely comprise a resident warden to provide continuity in a changing population, or it might extend to trained medical staff to look after children, welfare workers to help with housing problems and specialist helpers for families that have difficulty in home management.

One would expect that in such a hostel, as elsewhere, there would be a proportion of people who could not cope with all the problems of housekeeping, diet, child rearing and personal relationships any of which, if they break down, can contribute to a brand of homelessness even more soul destroying than that brought about by the simple lack of a house at a suitable rent.

Already at King Hill where the residents' committee is not officially recognised, it can be noticed that the less efficient managers gain confidence and actual help from living in a community where mutual aid is practised in a number of ways. This could be extended in a hostel fully under the control of the residents.

Cars and vans could be provided to enable residents to visit their home areas freely for house hunting, lobbying councillors, etc., and for transferring furniture and belongings when a house is found.

There could be a collection and storage service for furniture, both that owned by the homeless and spare furniture collected for equipping a new house when previous possessions have been lost. This might lead to the need for workshop facilities, with possibly an instructor for the repair and upholstery of second-hand furniture.

It would be desirable to build up a close liaison with local employers and schools. A homeless family cannot afford to be deprived of wages for long, and the children's education should receive as little interruption as possible.

The premises would be bound to affect the style of living of the residents, but as far as possible they should be adaptable to their varying needs. There should be the possibility of complete privacy for the family, with separate bedrooms for parents and older children, some cooking facilities and preferably private bathrooms and lavatories.

On the other hand there should

Harold's Retreat to Moscow

POWER STRUGGLE

A less charitable but more probable explanation of what has happened to Harold Wilson—and to Frank Cousins—can be explained in terms of the power struggle — of which Batman is but a pale shadow — that animates the figures that strut across the political stage.

With a Labour Government returned to office with so much power (in terms of seats), it is only natural that the Trade Unions (another form of power structure) should wish to try their strength. The offering of Cabinet rank to Frank Cousins was an attempt at appeasement, but the Prices and Incomes policy was too big a pill for the Unions to swallow. Harold Wilson's off-beat remark that 'it's about time to throw away the rule-book' did not, one imagines, go down well in TUC quarters. Mr. Wilson's ham-fisted handling of the seamen's strike with its ultimate implication of 'the Red Menace in the Trade Unions' was another one in the eye for the TUC who were under suspicion of not being able to discipline their members. The resignation of Frank Cousins could be a signal that the gloves are off.

Meanwhile in another part of the camp, the Vietnam war has escalated to the point that Harold Wilson can no longer kid his left. So what has he done? The first maxim of political power is, get rid of (or discredit) your successors. The second is, steal their platform, plank by plank if necessary. The 'left' of the Labour Party is a motley crew and it was easy enough to divide and conquer them. Those that could be flattered were commended for common sense, those that could be bribed were given office, those that could be bullied were told off, those that could be reasoned with were kidded, the political strategists were outfoxed and the honest men were few enough to be ignored. They wanted Wilson to cry halt, okay he deplored! They want Wilson to influence Johnson, okay he's going to Washington! They want Geneva recalled? Okay, he's going to Moscow!

What more can a Batman Boy Scout do?

JACK ROBINSON.

AT THE EASTER CND march the question was asked by the anarchists 'Whatever happened to Frank Cousins?' Frank has revealed himself as the new champion of the left, a job which has been open so long that the most ridiculous contenders have been nominated—for example William Warby, Christopher Mayhew, Desmond Donnelly and now, Frank Cousins. After an undistinguished career as Minister of Technology, nothing in his career so became him as his quitting of it. Some ministries are so nebulous in their achievement that only the replacement of one Minister by another is noticeable. Only in an era of non-events, would the Grand Renunciation of the intangible be identified as a 'happening'. The event is, of course, purely symbolic.

A blinding light was thrown upon the whole puppet show when the TGWU acting secretary said that Mr. Cousins would find it difficult to be an MP since the TU's working conditions demanded Mr. Cousins' full-time attention (wot... no union rules). However, Mr. Cousins' loyal constituency party have said that they want Mr. Cousins to remain as their MP. The TGWU has said he must give up his seat as soon as possible but meanwhile he could stay in the House to watch over the Union's interests with regard to the Prices and Incomes Policy. This was criticised by the *Guardian* as being an infringement of the democratic procedure, Mr. Cousins was in Parliament to represent the interests of the voters of Nuneaton, not to represent the TGWU.

What utter rubbish this is! It is a well-known fact that all MPs represent the views of their parties, in the first place, and in the second place many of them represent the business interests, co-operative parties, trade associations, trade unions, and pressure groups which they support (or are employed by) part-time or full-time. The interests of constituents who put them there, as apart from those who made it

possible for them to be available, come a poor second.

It is particularly ironical to appeal to Parliamentary privilege in the case of Mr. Cousins, for he was shot into Parliament over the heads of the electorate when their Member was promoted to the House of Lords in order to find Mr. Frank Cousins, who had been appointed Minister of Technology, a safe seat. The misadventures of the erstwhile Foreign Secretary, Member for Smethwick and candidate for Leyton, occurred, it will be remembered, at the same time.

BATMAN WILSON

However, the disappearance of Cousin Frank is nothing to the disappearance of the Harold Wilson we once knew and his re-appearance in no less than two disguises. Papas, cartoonist of the *Guardian*, made play for a while with the idea of Harold Wilson as Batman (a figure, we understand, of current pop and camp mythology). It seems that once again life has overtaken art. Harold Wilson's capacity to change from one character to another has outstripped Batman's transformation scenes.

First Harold unveiled the dark forces behind the seamen's strike. Senator McCarthy's 'eighty-nine card-carrying communists in government service' (or was it 189?) was of course too hammy to emulate but the 'Red plot' seems to have worked the trick with the seamen's strike... or did it?

Still haunted by Left-wing plotters, Batman Wilson announced his flight to Washington and, with an adroit piece of throwing pursuers off the track, announced a visit to Moscow (the trade fair of course) before his visit to Washington! It is not stated whether Mr. Wilson will be using an aeroplane or not.

It seems that H. Wilson's boy scout training has stood him in good stead. The Scouts may not be what they used to be, but certainly Harold is one of the old camp.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

THESE ARE CRITICAL moments for Spanish anarchism, since not only do they have to overcome the vacuum produced by 25 years of dictatorship and exile, but they must find themselves faced with all types of ideological deviation by groups and men detached from the movement who, either for defeatism, cowardice or opportunism, will want to delude the Spanish anarchist movement to bring it to the worst type of immobility, sacrificing the position of revolutionary struggle that has always been appropriate to the libertarian movement.

The above is an extract from a letter by the Spanish libertarian youth in exile (FIJL). Their motive for the present communication was to request aid towards the continuation of action against the Franco dictatorship. Their May 1 group which kidnapped the Ecclesiastical Councillor of the Spanish Embassy in Rome has received world wide publicity and we have seen a cutting from a Barcelona newspaper which says, 'Anarchists demand release political prisoners'—in exchange for Mgr. Ussia. Our comrade Luis Edo also held a clandestine conference to the world's press in Madrid during which he denounced the manoeuvring of the regime in order to deprecate the anarchist movement and at the same time claiming responsibility for the daring act of kidnapping to draw attention of the world to the many thousands of political prisoners in Spanish jails.

As reported in FREEDOM, it is believed that two of our French comrades were released in exchange for Mgr. Ussia. Other welcome news is that because the fright this action gave to both the regime and some renegades of the CNT, the talks between these have broken down. These renegades have now asked for Spanish police protection and an

embarrassing incident in the history of the CNT seems now to be closed.

The FIJL is now asking your aid 'in the sustaining of the Resistance groups of the FIJL'. They are convinced that you will not hesitate in mobilizing sympathy and energy that will aid their struggle, since they do not doubt that you look on this struggle as yours.

HELP NEEDED

A political prisoners' fund has been set up. Since the FIJL is illegal in France, please observe the utmost caution and mark all letters and cheques, 'Para presos politicos espanoles'. The FIJL's contact address is Monsieur Clément Fournier, Boite Postale 108, Aubervilliers-Seine-France.

LIBERTARIAN PESSIMISTS

Bill Dwyer from Australia writes:

Our group is now flourishing very well. All the members of the previous group (whose existence I was unaware of until recently) have rallied around the new one and there has been a great amount of new blood added. There are now good hopes for a newspaper to appear shortly in addition to the 'Red and Black' magazine which Jack Grancharoff produces. We have also published a statement of our aims and principles for the general public.

Using Colin Ward's outstanding article in *Anarchy* 62 (much appreciated here) as my main source, I gave a paper 'Anarchy and Utopia' to the Libertarian Society at Sydney University yesterday pointing out to them that their interpretation of and rejection of anarchist social theory as 'futuristic' and 'utopian' was not borne out by the evidence in terms of anarchist research and experiment. This society, which is widely respected amongst progressives here and has existed for many years, calls itself

'pessimistic' or 'realistic' anarchist. INTERNATIONAL ANARCHIST CONGRESS IN 1967

An international Anarchist congress will take place in Carrara, Italy in the spring of 1967. The organisation of this congress was entrusted to the FAI. Members of the preparatory commission are as follows: Umberto Marzocchi (Italian AF), G. Balkanski (Union of Bulgarian Anarchists), Natalis (Belgian AF), Kan Eujuchi (Japanese AF), Palan (Spanish AF), Ocana (CNT of Spaniards in exile), G. Malouvier (French AF).

It was also agreed to publish a liaison bulletin in French (in agreement with the CIA—not the better known one). This bulletin will contain material relating to this congress. They ask all militants of the international anarchist movement to prepare for this congress and send their proposals to the liaison bulletin so that an agenda can be decided upon.

The aim is to reorganise the Anarchist International. It is hoped that the AFB will also delegate a member to the preparatory commission and that proposals for the agenda will be discussed by local anarchist groups and journals. Address for the bulletin is Guy Malouvier, International Sec. FAF, 3 rue Terraux, Paris II, France.

On July 24 John Gill will be in Paris to establish the first personal contacts. Comrades who wish him to take any message or put forward suggestions should write at once to him c/o Freedom Press.

LONDON-PARIS WALK AGAINST FRENCH TESTS

Ian Mitchell writes from Rouen: Five people left St. Paul's at 10.30 on Wednesday, June 29, to walk to Paris behind a Committee of 100 poster which expressed opposition to the tests, in both French and English. Press coverage,

Continued on page 2



111 years ago Karl Marx said

“The English Revolution began yesterday in Hyde Park”

ANARCHY N° 65
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DEREVOLUTIONISATION
MARTIN SMALL

this issue discusses why it came to nothing

Continued on page 2

LIBERTY TAKERS

THE LIBERTIES that have been won through years of struggle in this country are slowly being whittled away. Newspapers talk of the right to strike being taken away and now it is being put forward, quite seriously, that the whole of the population of this country should have their fingerprints taken so that the battle against crime can be carried on in a more efficient manner, or so that missing persons or people who have met with sudden death can be identified immediately.

So what have you got against this? Why should I have my fingerprints taken? I'm not a criminal. Well, if you're not a criminal, what is there to be afraid of? I just don't want to have them taken, that's all. Don't you want to help the police to identify you if you met with an accident or something? I just don't think that the State should have the right to fingerprint anyone and keep tabs on everything that goes on; it is our liberty that they're after. What do you mean, they don't want to put you in prison for nothing, do they?

The argument goes on and you can't win because you have to argue in certain defined lines or no one will understand you, or if they do they will just think of you as a crank with a persecution complex. This, my friends, is how your liberties, one by one, are going to be whittled away. Eventually your every thought and action will be predicted by computer.

INARTICULATE

The trouble, I feel, is that this has become a middle-class country, or rather that only the middle class are articulate. They have a different idea of things to the worker. The worker does not trust the lawyer, police or the politician, fundamentally because he knows through experience that they are always against him. When a worker does appear on the goggle box and is asked for his opinion, and the goggle box is the medium through which most people receive their news nowadays, he is inarticulate and stumbles over his words. The middle-class person usually speaks more readily, usually out of the columns of the *Daily Mail* (which tells him what to think). He mouths the usual clichés about the unions having too much power, holding the country to ransom; that they were fine in their day but now it's time to all pull together for the good of the country. The worker, though he may think 'rubbish', cannot say this because he is overawed and tongue-tied and so never really gets a chance to say anything sensible.

We are in this position when we call for resistance to fingerprinting. I suppose the real anarchist case against fingerprinting is not based on anything other than a mistrust of the state, a wish

to be left alone, in the words of Edward Abbey's 'Brave Cowboy': 'What do I need an identity card for? I know who I am!'

WHO WILL HEAR?

This could, I think, be understood by all, but who is going to say it? Certainly not the newspapers, nor the lawyers, nor any of the people likely to attempt to stop the fingerprints being taken. Oh yes, the anarchists will say it, but who will hear them?

The establishment has the newspapers, the radio, the goggle box, or rather its slaves do. Mr. Wilson appears regularly to tell everyone just what to think (even during the Cup Final) and, unless the problem is one that they know about, the great mass of the public is content to either ignore or nod approval. When, however, people do know what it's all about, they are not content to be fobbed off with clever, clever answers, but if they cannot retaliate coherently they just dig their feet in and refuse to budge. They know they are right, and that's enough for them. The anarchists know that they are right about the State, but they are not very articulate about it. It's as if the whole of humanity is marching down the wrong road, one that leads to a cliff. Some people are telling them not to go on, they ask why? And the answers are only vague, so they take no notice.

STRIKES

The problem of the right to strike is very simple. Is the worker to be made to do forced labour? If his conditions are bad and he is not allowed to cease work, to voice his disapproval of those conditions, then he is being forced to work under those conditions, isn't he? He can leave his employment, but isn't that in fact what he does when he strikes? Or does his employer pay him while he is not working through strike action? To take away a man's right to cease work under his own volition is to force him to work. As the union representative is elected by the members of the union, and what's more paid by them, they employ him, and even a capitalist understands that he who pays the piper calls the tune. I have found this to be a foolproof way of crushing a union official who comes down to tell the men to obey their leaders.

One by one the liberties that have been won by the efforts of our ancestors are being taken away. They are being taken away by those who do not find them efficient. If they were being taken away by callous, cruel, power-drunk maniacs, many people would resist, but it's all being done by quiet little men in bowler hats and pin stripe trousers, and we don't know what to do.

JACK STEVENSON.

Personal Statement

On Thursday, June 30, 1966, the *Guardian* reported that Mr. Peter Cadogan, secretary of the national Committee of 100, said in a statement last night that Mr. Wilson must be replaced by someone who would break with President Johnson. The task of finding a successor among the Cabinet opponents of Mr. Wilson's east of Suez policy, he said, should not be difficult.

I wish to dissociate myself from his statement.

Not only do I dissociate myself from it, but I most strongly disapprove of one man being the spokesman for the Committee of 100.

Mr. Peter Cadogan is treating the Committee of 100 as his private property. He does with it as he pleases. He issues statements in the name of the Committee of 100 which are nothing but the personal opinions of Mr. Peter Cadogan.

Even worse than that.

Some months ago he submitted to the

Committee of 100 a paper which he called 'Into Europe'. This paper the meeting considered and rejected as not being the policy of the Committee of 100.

Peter Cadogan sent it out just the same and it appeared in translation in the Dutch anarchist monthly *De Vrije*, and in the German magazine *Direkte Aktion* under the name of the Committee of 100. This is how much Mr. Peter Cadogan thinks of the decisions of the Committee of 100.

In one of his leaflets Mr. Peter Cadogan said: 'We recognize the futility of appealing to politicians'. But this is for the sheep—not for the shepherd. In another leaflet he calls on Wilson to recall Geneva.

He wants to get rid of Wilson so that he may become Prime Minister himself. He would then form a non-violent government and quell defiance with, what he calls, 'non-violent troops'. He would then establish Pax-Cadogana.

Mr. Peter Cadogan gives the appearance of a nice man. To the people who constitute the Committee of 100 he is a nice man with a salaried smile. To the

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'L.B.J. says US Promotes Works of Peace in Vietnam—US Information Service

MR. FRANK COUSINS resigned from the Ministry of Technology on the question of the Prices and Incomes Bill and received a £500 a year rise from his Union. Mr. Sidney Greene, general secretary of the NUR received 26½% pay increase making his yearly salary £3,706. Mr. James Hoffa, President of the US union, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, was re-elected for a third five-year term and given a salary increase of one-third, making his salary £35,700. Mr. Hoffa is under sentence for 'shaking-down' a haulage contractor and for misusing union pension funds. A senior union executive said, 'The executive says he's not guilty. So we don't care and to hell with everyone!' Hoffa is once said to have remarked of the US Capitol, 'There isn't a man in there I couldn't buy for \$50,000.'

MISS DIANA RIGG is to return to her TV role in 'The Avengers' at a salary of £450 a week—three times her former salary. Miss Rigg is at present with the Royal Shakespearean Company receiving £70 a week. A Bournemouth student is claiming the world study record for reading Shakespeare for two days and nights. He hopes to raise £100 for charity. A Mrs. Mary Wilson has received £50 from the Russian Embassy for her poem *After the Bomb* which appeared in *Izvestia* (in translation). It starts 'After the Bomb had fallen / After the last sad cry / When the earth was a burnt-out cinder / Drifting across the sky.'

HER HUSBAND, a Mr. Harold Wilson, is flying to Moscow to talk to Soviet leaders on Vietnam. The news was leaked by (or to) that morning burnt-out cinder, formerly glittering as the *Daily Worker*. On Vietnam, the MP for Freedom Press (Mr. M. Stewart), speaking in a Parliamentary debate said, 'The cruelties which follow inescapably from aerial bombardment have received widespread publicity. In a world where there are opportunities for communication of facts and of knowledge, it is inevitable and right that that should be so, and the cruelties which follow inevitably from aerial bombardment have a terrible and spectacular nature about them which particularly commands the attention. Citizens of

countries which experienced aerial bombardment during the war react to them in a manner which is natural and inevitable.'

FACTS EMERGING from South Vietnam are that there is barely one South Vietnamese doctor for every 70,000 civilians. Ninety per cent. of hospital patients are tuberculous and malaria is rampant particularly among children. Other widespread diseases include amoebic dysentery. Simple medicines are in short supply and malnutrition is common. The Swiss humanitarian organization *Terre des Hommes* complains that although it has the offer of several hundred free hospital beds in Europe for injured Vietnamese children, the Americans refuse to provide aircraft and say that the children should be treated in Vietnam.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON, speaking at Omaha, said, '... we have made up our mind to deal with the two most common threats to the peace of the world. We are determined to match our resolution with action. What are these threats? First is the desire of most people—to win a better way of life. Second is the desire of some people to force their way of life on others. We must help to fulfil the one and frustrate the other.' The American Secretary of State, George W. Ball, is reported to have said (according to the US Information Service), 'Nations that feel a sense of involvement make no criticism of United States action in Vietnam.' President Johnson, speaking in Johnson City, Texas, on a disarmament treaty called on the Soviet Union to join the United States in working out the language of such a treaty.

MR. CHRISTOPHER COWLEY, a former member of the Committee of 100 and Mrs. Kathleen Farr, the treasurer of the Committee, attended an Independence Day reception at the American Ambassador's London house and proposed, 'Let us drink to all the dead and dying of Vietnam.' They were discovered to be 'gatecrashers' and were ejected.

KU-KLUXSMEN in Rocky Mount (North Carolina) picketed a dry-cleaner's in full regalia because the firm's Negro

employees refused to clean Klan robes. A young Methodist West Indian clergyman trying to rent a house in Brixton, London, was refused on the grounds of his colour.

ANTHONY GREY, secretary of the Homosexual Law Reform Society, wrote in the *Guardian* of cases where homosexuals had been dismissed from jobs, the employer saying, 'We don't mind, but the other employees might'. A bill was introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Leo Abse, seeking to change the law on homosexuals. Sir Cyril Osborne (Conservative), opposing the bill, said that the sponsors claimed that there were about a million 'homos' in Britain. 'I do not believe it. I do not believe our country is as rotten as all that. It is an awful slur on the good name of our country to say such things. If this House were representative of the country, then there would be at least thirty homos in this House.' [MPs roared with laughter and there were shouts of 'Name them!'] Sir Cyril continued, 'It is exactly 21 years today when I first became a member of this House. During those 21 years I have had the great privilege of having friendships with members on both sides of the House.' [Laughter and cries of 'Oh' came from both sides of the House.] In an interview in the *Daily Mail* later in the week, Sir Cyril, speaking on homosexuals, said, 'Don't tell me they can't help it. A man has it in him to do whatever he wants if he makes an effort. If you say they can't help it you excuse every crime in the calendar. I'd castrate every one of them.' On race he said, 'As for the race question, it has perplexed good minds all over the world and none of them has found a cure.' The interviewer wrote, 'I asked him what virtue he most missed in himself. He answered, "I lack patience and tolerance. I think a sense of toleration is the hallmark of a civilised man, and it's one which all men must desire".'

NEW PAPERBACK EDITION of *Caleb Williams* by William Godwin (Four-Square Books) has the catch-phrase on the cover, 'What were this Bluebeard's unspeakable crimes?'

ION QUINOTE.

Socialists he pretends to be a socialist, and to those who believe in Private Property—Mr. Cadogan worships it. To the Liberals he is a liberal, to the Conservatives he is a conservative, and of course to the Anarchists he is an anarchist.

We would serve the peace movement well if we got rid of the authoritarian and dictatorial office of 'National Secretary'.

Otherwise papers and statements will keep going out in the name of the Committee of 100 which are nothing but the personal opinions of Mr. Peter Cadogan.

Yours against all authority,
Croydon, Surrey PAUL PAWLOWSKI.

Provos

Dear Editor,

English arrogance is all the more stark when it appears in the libertarian press, and in this respect Charles Radcliffe's article on the Provos will take some beating.

Reading it I marvelled, as I had done during the meeting with Bernhard de Vries in the Conway Hall, at the apparent absence of any genuine sense of enquiry.

I saw a good deal of Bernhard and Irene while they were here and I am satisfied that in certain respects the Provos have the edge on us. We shall be well advised to examine their experience closely—as something different to our own and therefore not directly comparable—and pick their brains.

It seemed to me that they were ahead of us in at least the following respects:

- (1) in the systematic development of the elements of a socio-political programme—the case of the white bicycles being typical.
- (2) in their ideas about the repopulation of city centres.
- (3) in their revolutionary notion of the translation of the police into social workers.
- (4) in their determination to face the mods and rockers problem by means of their own direct personal involvement. (How completely we have farked this one in Britain!)
- (5) in their carefully considered view of the marginal relevance of representative institutions — leading to the special character of Bernhard's membership of the Amsterdam City Council.
- (6) in the overtly classless basis of their thinking and their consequent final

LETTERS

& Controversy

break with the dogmatic Marxist hang-over.

This is already a pretty formidable list and there are almost certainly other items. The fact that these ideas never got through to Charles Radcliffe and most other people is only further proof of their originality. New ideas always suffer this fate at the outset.

Yours sincerely,
Cambridge PETER CADOGAN.
9.7.66

Role of GP?

Dear Friends,

Much of what Jeff Robinson says about the role of the Communist Party in the British Peace Movement (FREEDOM, June 18) is all too true. But why does he have to tar the rank-and-file YCL'er with the same brush as the Communist leadership? From my experience many members of the YCL are sincere, dedicated and, yet, compassionate people. Strange as it may seem, some of them actually do care about the sufferings of the people of Vietnam. From this compassion they may draw the wrong conclusions and support the National Liberation Front, but this doesn't invalidate their very real concern. At least they are willing to put themselves out to protest at what is going on in Vietnam, which is more than can be said for most people. One day, perhaps, the feelings which took them into the Communist movement will enable them to see through the fraud of the Party and pursue a more fruitful course. This happens already—some of them even become anarchists!

I agree with Jeff Robinson that the pro-Russian and pro-Chinese Communists have no real place in the Peace Movement. But we cannot ignore the fact that many Communists, especially the younger ones, have the right feelings, even if they are expressing them in a very wrong-

headed way. Anarchism has nothing in common with Communism, but I can't help feeling that, in some peculiar way, many Communists and I are on the same side.

Yours sincerely,
Staffs. GORDON CAUSER.
19.6.66

Emigrate to Vietnam

Sir,

From time to time one reads of British migrants complaining that before leaving Britain they were not informed truly of conditions in Australia. It is doubtful if people in the British Isles are aware of Australia's present policy of conscripting 20-year-old men to serve in the army in Vietnam, where two conscripts have been killed within recent weeks.

We hope that you will give this letter wide publicity so that any young men of conscription age, or any parent with sons of 20 or approaching 20, will think again before coming to Australia. As soon as they step ashore, these young men are liable to be conscripted and sent off to fight and perhaps die in the jungles of Vietnam—and all in the interests of American power politics.

Our advice to intending migrants in this category is: Don't come.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. KANE.
(Vice President, West Australian Save Our Sons Association.)
21.6.66

WE'VE SLIPPED!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

WEEK 27, JULY 9, 1966

Expenses: 27 Weeks at £80: £2160
Income: Sales and Subs.: £1682

DEFICIT: £478

Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-;
Montreal: J.G. 8/3; Portland, Oregon:
J.F.C. £3/3-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-;
Arlesley: P.F. 5/-; Port Arthur, Ont.:
J.E.MacD. 3/6.

TOTAL: £4 14 9
Previously Acknowledged: £622 17 2
1966 Total to Date: £627 11 11

*Denotes regular contributor.

Rationalisation— JARGON OF 1966

RATIONALIZATION, equated wages system, these terms have suddenly become fashionable in the jargon of international relations. In plain English, these terms mean smaller labour force, increased production, workers and management sharing the saving. Harold Wilson, Sir Keith Joseph, Ray Gunter make the claim that, generally speaking, industry is 'over-staffed'. Hence the drive for more 'one-man buses' and single driver trains.

The newspaper industry is being called upon to, and is in the process of, carrying out a policy of manpower saving. In the effort to push this policy, the claim is made that there would be no redundancy. In terms of men being actually thrown on the 'industrial scrap heap', this is true. The policy of the printing unions over the past years has been one of (a) tightly controlled entry into the printing industry in general, and (b) controlled transfer into the newspaper section in Fleet Street. This policy has brought much criticism, not only from the printing em-

ployers, but from MPs as well. The charge of restrictive practice has been levelled at the printing trade workers. Printworkers are charmingly called the 'aristocrats of industry' by people outside the trade.

On the face of it the accusation appears to be true but on closer study this policy is not the making of the printing unions, but a policy forced upon them by a set of employers who have consistently failed to face their responsibilities. Printworkers swore they would never again go back to the days when the police had to control printworkers in Carmelite Street attempting to get work. This sort of outlook may sound stupid in 1966 but, unfortunately, a similar occurrence (possibly not so bad) could occur again. Printing-office mergers and close downs are taking place every month and because of the unions' policy of restricted entry, unemployed workers are able to be absorbed. For how long depends on the present and long term policy of the print unions. If rationalisation of labour is used to the extent the employers would like, then the whole policy of the unions in the past has been wasted. Another important feature in the printing industry is the rapid advance of new processes which, in its inevitable path, destroys 'craft', and a decreased demand for labour power. All this is in the name of efficiency, productivity, etc., etc., but never in the name of increased 'leisure time'.

This problem is not peculiar to the printing industry alone, furniture trade workers face the same problem in a more acute form. Furniture trade workers at Harris Lebus in Tottenham have the problem right on their doorstep.

Lebus's is one of the largest furniture factories in Europe, and the employers claim the factory is making a loss, the only reason it has been able to keep going is because it has been subsidised by other subsidiaries of the Lebus Empire.

A few weeks ago process 'clear out' was set in motion, a man was brought in especially to do the job, and according to various reports he is going 'to town' from the highest to the lowest, with the full co-operation of the National Union of Furniture Trade Operatives. They were given the choice 'co-operate or we shut the lot down' (Fairfields?).

Part of the operation 'clear out' is the abolition of 'piece work' bonuses, etc., those who remain will share a portion of the saving. A

great consolation for those who have to leave, especially in the view of the crisis in the highly competitive furniture industry. Workers who are slung on 'the heap' will get a 'copper' handshake but only when released by the firm, if a worker decides to tender his notice **No Handshake**. In other words gentle blackmail to enable Lebus's to fulfil their present commitments.

Redundancy ranges from 60% to as much as 80% in some departments. It is rumoured that after the holiday period Lebus's will operate short-time working of a three-day week. Could they be hoping that some will be forced to leave for economic reasons thus saving some of the 'copper handshake'? The shop stewards have this in line, they have informed the management 'no short-time working during redundancy period'.

The final objective of operation 'clear out' at Lebus's is to reduce down to a task force to mass produce limited designs of furniture during a trial period of 12 months. The only other thing they have to do is sell the stuff and it is a matter of conjecture whether 'limited design' will sell in a highly competitive market.

Not only have the furniture workers to compete with their employers, but have to contend with the blatant lying of the Sunday Press, the *People* which, in its issue of July 3, distorted the facts so much that one section of Lebus's workers were forced to write to the *People*—needless to say the letter has not yet been printed.

Here we have an example of the policy of rationalization, a policy which the *People* chose to call courageous and wanted to see more of. So much for the patriotic rubbish of Wilson, Joseph and Co. There are two places that could do with a cut back of staffing, both Houses of Parliament. William Morris had the right idea, it would be of more value if used for storing manure.

Is there a solution to the problem? In the ultimate, yes; 'workers ownership and control of industry', a pat answer but the truth. At the present time we can only fight to attempt to hold what we have and at the same time convince ourselves that we are capable of owning and controlling industry. We have the know-how, the technical skill, even skilled technicians have to sell their brain and labour power, they are not a class apart though no doubt some have been 'kidded to the contrary'. Reforms are like a painkiller, a temporary easement, but in the end the root cause has to be destroyed.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

A BAD JOB GETTING WORSE

P.T. Replies:

THE RECOMMENDATIONS of the Prices and Incomes Board on the busmen's pay award are not, as I see it, in the interests of the general public. They are made with a view to putting the London Transport Board on a more profitable footing which, after all, is the basis of the PIB's existence, but in order to do this, there will have to be cuts in services. The person who signs himself 'Public Transport User' thinks he may benefit when these recommendations are put into practice. I do not agree.

There are, however, many difficulties which will arise. For instance, in the case of part-time workers during rush hours, there will not be many people who will be prepared to do this work. The pay will be insufficient to live on and it will be difficult to fit this job in with another. From the busmen's point of view, part-time workers in industry are usually bad trade unionists, because obviously they are not fully committed to it for earning a living. An extension of the standing hours rule would make the busmen's job harder and more standing passengers means fewer buses for the LTB to run.

Why does 'Public Transport User' concern himself with the uneconomic

working during off-peak periods? Surely he wants an adequate service and it is up to the LTB under the nationalisation bill to provide this. Economics do not come into it.

'AN EXPERIMENT'

The use of one-man operated buses is firmly established on country routes where they may be easy to operate, but they hardly make sense in Central London where there are so many passengers to cope with. Originally, in March 1954, these country buses were only supposed to be 'an experiment', with a few being used on 'uneconomic routes', but now the wedge is firmly established and about to be driven in a little further. Obviously the increased number of cars on the road is one of the reasons for the poor public transport and an answer to this would be the banning of private cars from certain areas. No doubt in its slow and cumbersome way, the Government will finally do this.

In my experience, the average user of London buses has little sympathy for the busmen and tends to blame them for almost everything. Under the very bad conditions which busmen have to endure, they do not generally care much for the passengers. In this, both are victims of the inhuman city environment.

Freedom For Workers' Control

JULY 16 1966 Vol 27 No 22

E.N.V.'s—A Long Struggle Ahead

IT seems certain that the struggle at ENV's at Willesden is going to be a long and protracted one. It will also be a hard one for what is at the heart of this dispute is that the management feels that it has lost control of the factory and this is one issue that they cannot afford to give in on.

As I wrote last week, a Joint Composite Conference had been arranged which was attended by the management, union executive members and shop stewards. From statements made at the conference, it is clear that the management feels that their prerogatives have been encroached upon and that they are determined to 'reverse this present impossible situation'.

ENV's, which is in fact owned by an American concern called Eaton Manufacturing Co. Ltd., say that they are losing money and that they want to make this a 'successful business to the benefit of all employees' again. To this end they had a whole load of proposals ranging from stricter adherence to starting and finishing times to a new graded wage structure. They want a drastic tightening up all round with mobility of labour and an extension of shift working where the needs of production demand it. They also propose calling in a group of industrial consultants, who will carry out a work study from which will be determined whether a piece-work or a measured day-work plan will be operated.

CO-OPERATION OF THE UNIONS

To get these proposals into operation, the Company requires the co-operation of the unions. The idea is to ensure the full use of machinery and equipment and to get this they are prepared to pay for union representatives to be trained in the techniques of work study. Whatever the conclusions of the industrial consultants, 'new standards' will be started under which earnings, in return for 'reasonable effort', will average out on those being earned at present. The reason the company gives for the introduction of these plans is their 'miserable profit position and the high earnings now paid for low productivity' and they think that these proposals will not lead to a cut in wages.

The average earnings at ENV's now amount to about £27 10s. for a 40-hour week. The workers themselves have determined, by direct action, what is the reasonable effort required to earn this amount, but if the management has its way then they will have to work a lot harder to take home the same wages. It seems that the management laid it

'Public Transport User' writes 'Would, I wonder, a bus system run on Workers' Control continue to operate for just a handful of people?' If busmen gained control, we would hardly be living under the present system. Other workers would be running their industries and these would all be co-ordinated. Surely it is the profit motive that operates today that in fact lays down what is to be the sort of service we get.

However what should concern us is the increased exploitation of the busmen which will arise from the implementation of the PIB's recommendations. An already bad job will become even worse and the increase in pay will be little compensation. I believe every worker should sell his labour at the highest price possible to the employer and that he should try to get the best conditions possible. Perhaps 'Public Transport User' has done this and found himself a comfortable and sheltered niche, but the majority of busmen have not.

on a bit thick, even for the union executive members, and their proposals were rejected. However, they are still looking for other ways of getting a showdown with the Shop Stewards' Committee and the workers they represent. The shop stewards want to pick their ground for a fight if there has to be one and do not want to be provoked into taking strike action on a minor issue. This has been avoided so far and in order to put themselves completely in the clear, the Committee asked one section to call off a ban on overtime so as to be strictly in line with procedural agreements.

'IPSO FACTO'

The management still maintain that they do not recognise the shop stewards, yet they still negotiate with them and the recognition is 'ipso facto'. An example of this occurred when the management wanted to do away with an agreement which stated that there would be no sacking in any section if overtime had been worked over the previous three months.

It is quite on the cards that ENV's will either try to provoke a strike on which they can defeat the Shop Stewards' Committee or will negotiate a productivity deal with the union executives linked with measures which will drastically curb the shop floor union organisation.

The management has the backing of the Government on productivity tied to wages and most of the union executives are behind this policy. This struggle is more than just a showdown with the workers' factory organisation, for it extends to the Government's policy on incomes. It is even more important that these facts are made known to other shop stewards' committees so that assistance and support can be given if the need arises. The wages, conditions and the extensive job control which ENV workers have achieved must not be given up lightly. In fact they have set an example which other workers should seek to emulate. It comes to the showdown then they should not be left isolated, but given the fullest support. We do not want a repeat of the happenings at Ford's.

P.T.

FRENCH CAMP

Address: Camping International, Campagne du Père Icard, ST. MITRE LES REMPARTS (13), B d. R. France.

The camp is from July 18 to August 31, 1966. St. Mitre les Remparts lies 50 km. from les Baux and from Marseilles, and 80 km. from Saintes Maries de la Mer (Carmargue).

TO GET THERE the best railway stations are ISTRES or MARTIGUES, from each of which there is a coach service to St. Mitre les Remparts:—

From ISTRES: 6.20 a.m., 8.15 a.m., 12.40 p.m., 2 p.m., 4.45 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. each day.

From MARTIGUES: 6.45 a.m., 10.05 a.m., 11.50 a.m., 3.35 p.m., 6 p.m. and 7.35 p.m. each day.

The camping site is on the road (Départementale 50) linking St. Mitre les Remparts with Port de Bouc and is exactly 1 km. 500 from St. Mitre going towards Port de Bouc, at which point two cypress trees indicate the way to the camp.

If you wish to give advance notice of your arrival, write to Camping International as above.

Contact Column

This column exists for mutual aid. Donations towards cost of typesetting will be welcome.

Minus One. An individualist anarchist review, No. 14, now on sale. Elevenpence from S. E. Parker, 2 Orsett Terrace, London, W.2 or from Freedom Bookshop.

Violence of the Law. Meeting to discuss recent developments. Called by Douglas Kepper (ILP). Sunday, July 24, 3 o'clock, Peace News, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N.1.

Centenary Lectures NSS. July 22. Freethought and Social Work. Peter Fryer and Kerstine Richards. August 5. Freethought and the Arts, Blakeston, Calder, Cotes. Meetings 7.30 p.m., Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Committee of 100. International Subcommittee. Saturday, July 16, 2.30 p.m., 13 Goodwin Street, N.4.

Country Cottage. (Furnished.) Offered rent free to competent do-it-yourselfer, preferably with family, in return for 'doing it'. West country. Minimum period of two years. Box 36.

Accommodation Wanted in country near London for active man with invalid wife. Small income. Also any job considered. Open to genuine suggestions. Must move to help wife's health. Box No. 35.

Accommodation Wanted. Urgently. Post seeks post-cheap room in West London. Otherwise responsible person. Box 33.

Progressives Unite! All persons genuinely concerned in doing something practical towards communal living, co-operative business ventures, mutual aid or sexual emancipation. Please contact: Emmanuel and Mary Petrakis, 45 Plimsoll Road, London, N.4.

Heatwave. The English successor to *The Rebel Worker* 6. First issue contains 40 pp. of articles on drug addiction, the provos, and the international youth revolt. Now available 2/- post free, from Charles Radcliffe, 13 Redcliffe Road, London, S.W.10 or from Freedom Press.

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

Summer School. Committee of 100—July 23/30 on 'The Scope of Libertarianism' at Aylesmore Farm, Warwick. Cost £3. Register by 10/- deposit to 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4.

Tapes wanted. Loan of tapes of poetry readings, meetings, protest songs, etc. Postage will be repaid. J. Barns, 144 Park Estate, Toftwood, Derham, Norfolk.

Wanted. Support for London market project. Cash and/or loan of van. Box 34.

If you wish to make contact let us know.