

Traitors in Gaiters

IN A BLOODY history of killing for Christ, few places have shown such religious zeal as Northern Ireland. This month has seen several outbreaks—a stabbed man stumbles into a house before dying; another lad of 18 dies from a spray of gunfire after leaving a pub and a woman died seven weeks after being injured by a petrol bomb hurled into her home. The first two were Catholics, and the third a Protestant. The facts of the murder of the 18-year-old lad are well known, as it was followed by panic measures by the Stormont Government. The third was a Protestant who lived in a Catholic area.

Subsequent to the murder of Peter Ward the Northern Ireland Premier returned hastily from Paris and his Government banned the fascist Ulster Volunteer Force. This is one of the two armed ultra-Protestant groups, and by far the most extreme. Since they have sent threatening letters to MPs, clergymen and others (the record being held by a non-subscribing Presbyterian Minister—Unitarian Rev. Williamson, who has received 200 such letters) they were outlawed.

The reaction to the murder of Peter Ward has been a stereotyped one. Virtually all religious and political parties said the same thing—that was, total condemnation of the Ulster Volunteer Force and of Rev. Ian Paisley. Paisley is the man who raised roars of hallelujahs in response to his condemnation of Archbishop Ramsey's visit to, as he terms him, Mr. Red Socks. When Paisley and a few of his friends went to Rome on the same plane as Ramsey with some 'naughty' posters, they were turned back by the Italian police.

I just cannot join those who are turning Paisley into a scapegoat. Many papers commenting on the Northern Ireland situation have said that Paisley has not more than 3,000 followers in his Free Presbyterian Church but that he plays upon the traditional emotions of working-class Protestants in Northern Ireland. This does put the whole affair in a different perspective. The Rev. Albert McElroy, the non-subscribing Presbyterian Minister and Chairman of the Northern Ireland Liberal Party, laid the blame wholly at the feet of Captain Terence O'Neill, the Northern Ireland Premier. Rev. McElroy stood as a Liberal candidate in North Fermanagh during the General Election in November, 1965. As he put over a programme of an end to religious discrimination as well as for integrated education (religious), he was howled down by Orange mobs and at many of his meetings both he and his agent were subject to physical assault as a 'friend of the Papists'. While I sub-

stantially agree that what Mr. McElroy says goes further to the root of the matter than the others, I think that you must look at this affair against the background of not only Northern Ireland but of all Ireland. The sectarian outbreaks are surely a reflection of not only Northern Ireland, but of the whole island.

Paisleyism preys not only on the Orange feelings of the Protestants (and some writers have compared it with the KKK appealing to the poorer Southern whites of the US), on the same basis that neither can afford to be generous, to the Negroes in one case, Catholics in the other. The comparison is purely a fictitious one, and does not bear any resemblance whatsoever to reality. What Paisleyism preys on is the fears of the Northern working class Protestant of living in a 'Republic dominated by Mr. Red Socks and his "friends"'. These are real fears and justifiable fears. It could be said in 1912 that Carson represented the Industrialists of the six-county area and they exploited the fears of the Protestants for their own ends. This was, of course, quite true and is still quite true. There is an additional factor, however, present today, which was not there 55 years ago, and that is the 26-county 'Republic', virtually every year of the glorious 44 since 1922, has witnessed evidence to justify these fears and provided plenty of ammunition for the Orangemen's propaganda guns. Contraceptives are illegal in the Republic, divorce laws are non-existent, there is a clerical censorship on books and films, and there is almost a Maynooth veto on all legislation (Maynooth being the centre of Catholic clerical education in Ireland). The latter was borne out dramatically in the famous Mother and Child Scheme of 1951 leading to the resignation of the then Minister for Health, Dr. Noel Browne. There is a clause in the Constitution of the Republic 'recognising the Special position of the Catholic Church in Ireland', and so on.

I have quoted the above not to justify or defend Paisleyite fascism but to see the events in their perspective. Coming from the Republic, I think that I can appreciate the kind of emotions that explode under the eloquence of the Rev. Ian Paisley into the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Some writers in English papers have drawn attention to the 'apartheid' side of the persecuted Church at the end of their articles 'exposing' Paisleyism. They refer in a small paragraph to the Catholic Church's insistence on separate education and separate hospitalization. The Northern Government provides 65% of the bills for all these clerical 'apartheid' schools to be built and then pays the salaries of the teachers. The Catholic Mater Hospital opted out of the 1948 UK Health Scheme because the Government refused to undertake to guarantee its Catholicity. The Catholic Church asks for favours and, when not granted unconditionally, the 'poor Church' is persecuted. Never has any organisation thrived as much on myth as the Vatican.

I think that this current outbreak of Paisleyism is only the beginning. Ecumenicism can be a double-edged sword and I think that I can be justifiably optimistic in stating the end is in sight for both hierarchies, and archaic dogmas in a country which has been persecuted by religion for a very long time.

The end of hierarchical rule on social custom in the Republic and the end of fundamentalist dogma on social customs in Protestant Ulster are not of course an end in themselves. But, and this is important, it will clear the air a very great deal and perhaps then Irishmen will turn to themselves to solve their own problems—not Rome, not London, nor even Moscow or Peking. To paraphrase Connelly, 'Neither the Vatican nor London, but Ireland'.

IRISH CORRESPONDENT.

ON FRIDAY, August 12, at 3.30 in the afternoon, an unknown hand gunned down three policemen in Braybrook Road, Shepherd's Bush, within yards of the wall of Wormwood Scrubs Prison. Within minutes the story of the triple slaying began to circulate by word of mouth around the Bush and curiosity was the key to the public reaction. By six o'clock the evening papers had flooded London with their final editions and the mood was deliberately set for the alleged public reaction to the mass slaying.

When the Moors Murder Trial was being held the press and the television editors decided that in the public interest events surrounding those murders should be deliberately suppressed but with the death of these three policemen there has been a complete reversal of this high-minded policy and both press and television descended to a depth that they had not wallowed in since the glad days of the last war when the protective arm of State guaranteed them the right to preach mob law without fear of redress from those attacked.

Here was rabble rousing at its

TWO YEARS IN JAIL

On September 1, 1964, Stuart Christie, an 18-year-old Scots lad, was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment by the Fascist authorities in Spain.

For two years Stuart has been incarcerated in the Carabanchel Prison in Madrid, with very little news or chance of early release.

We do know that Alfred Morris, MP, has asked questions in the House and instigated a deputation to the Foreign Office. We are also told that Stuart's appeal is receiving consideration at the highest level.

What we don't know is how much progress is being made, the only way to find out is to pressurize the 'right people' by—

Sending letters of protest demanding immediate intervention for his release by the Labour Government, to the national and local press, to your MP and to the Foreign Secretary.

Christie-Carballo Defence Committee, 6 Stainton Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

Police and Property

most despicable and it ranged from the reporting of the maudlin and sentimental slop of small children taking their piggy banks along to the Police Station to add to the £100,000 anonymous gift, to that of the old ladies in the Alms House and the prisoner in the Scrubs giving their mite, while at its most foul extreme it played public host to the political boys who, before the gun or the bodies were hardly cold, were howling for the return of the death penalty.

Let us, without canting hypocrisy, deplore the death of any man but let us ask those who so eagerly queue to sign the death petitions why these men died. They died in the performance of their paid duty and that duty was the protection of property and let those who hired them for that purpose accept the guilt of their deaths.

The press and the television in their coverage of these deaths have attempted to convey the illusion that these unfortunate men are the underpaid guardians of the safety of the individual yet within walking distance of where these policemen lay dead you will find Notting Hill where Rachman, at the height of his power as a slum landlord, could call upon this very same police force to order men, women and children from their decaying homes out onto the pavements and all their tears and taxes meant nothing, for Rachman was a wealthy property owner and as such he had every right to call upon the police to protect his legally owned property.

Within walking distance of where these three men lay dead is the Bush Green where the alcoholics drink themselves to their own drear death and no policeman concerns himself with the fate of these unfortunates, yet every uniformed patrol man is duty bound to see that the premises of those who sell the alcoholics their *Bulmer's Cider*,

Red Seal White Sweet British Wine and surgical spirit is not harmed.

If three building workers had plunged to their deaths, if three miners had been crushed in the darkness of the earth or if three old people had died alone and in misery then the press would have accepted their tragedies bravely and at the most with six inches of space in a single edition. But when the physical arm of the State is attacked, then that authority and all its paid and unpaid supporters demand that its strong arm servants shall be revenged. And revenge is the word, for these men are dead and others, in the course of time, will die and all that the men of authority and property can offer them is the promise that they will attempt to win them a blood sacrifice.

That the Establishment press should give this slaughter in Braybrook Street the Death of Kings treatment and record in one inch and one quarter type the arrest of a man in connection with these shootings is to be accepted, but one feels that at some future date there will be many employees of the State-owned British Broadcasting Company who will have to re-examine that liberal conscience, that they are so proud of picking in public, for their part in this nation-wide mob hunt.

Day after day while the whole of the police forces were seeking men wanted in connection with these deaths the television commentators played up the alleged demand for the return of the death penalty and while men were being hunted like rats they discussed, within the comfort of the studio, the desirability of issuing the police with permanent and personal firearms.

They were the white-collared mob and in their fashion as stupid and irresponsible as the Billericay hoodlums who fought the police to

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Bring Back the Branding Irons!

ITV in its haste to be 'with it' on the recent wave of interest in the police, showed an old film discussion about the police. Unfortunately the material was old and was highly critical (in part) of police brutality to demonstrators. ITV had to apologize for its blunder in view of the public sensibility about the Shepherd's Bush murders. But Mr. George Target who had taken part in the recording said he did not think an apology was called for since police could still be brutal, still break up demonstrations, etc. He further added that there was a lot of sentimentality about the police at the moment.

This is very true and Arthur Moyses' article in this issue aptly illustrates this point. Certain practical points occur to one.

The murders seem to have been committed by three men, according to some accounts only one man fired the shots. The first man charged had been at the police station for seventy-two hours, in the charming phrase 'helping the police with their enquiries'. The second desperado—who gave up without a struggle—is an ex-policeman's son, who should have imbibed the lessons of wrong-doing on his father's knee. The third man trained as a commando in Malaya and at the time of going to press is still on the run.

As to the case of the man who was detained at the police station, it will be recalled that in the case of Gunther Podola who was hanged for shooting a policeman, it was necessary for some public spirited citizens to threaten to get a writ of *habeas corpus* before Podola, injured during his capture, was admitted to a hospital and later charged. Under English law detention is only permitted for 48 hours. It is well known what pressures can be put upon an uncharged person once he is in police

custody. Of course, when a man is 'helping the police' he is perfectly free to leave the station at any time.

The secretary of the Police Federation wrote to the *Sunday Times* and complained about inaccuracies and omissions in their list of murdered policemen. He pointed out the gap of four years or so when no policeman was killed followed the Bentley execution which he assumes shocked the criminal classes out of their police-shooting activities. As abolitionists will recall, the Bentley execution was so appalling (he was innocent of the shooting) that a great wave of anti-hanging propaganda followed; this, if the secretary is correct, should have shown the criminal classes that they could get away with murder.

But it is highly evident, from these last two weeks, that statistics will not convince the convinced 'hangers'. The proprietor of the wine-shop proudly showing a poster in favour of bringing back hanging would not be moved by the figures of murders done under the influence of alcohol. But make of it what you will, the largest number of policemen murdered occurred in the constituency of one of the few Labour MPs to favour hanging.

There has been much talk of 'an epoch of violence', of 'Chicago', and of 'organized crime'. It is not proven that (apart from official government-sponsored violence) we live in a more violent era. It is true that 'crime', mainly what law-makers call 'vice' and others 'pleasure', is more organized, but we live in an era of big business and the question (especially in London where most of this takes place) is a question of supply and demand. References are made to Chicago but it will be recalled that the worst excesses of Chicago took place during a period of too much law, viz.

the prohibition era. Then, as now, relatively 'law-abiding' citizens partook of illicit pleasures provided and protected by gangsters whose exploits (in the field of violence) they deplored.

'Violence', as W. H. Auden wrote, 'touches all our lives. None of us is innocent.' And the bourgeoisie are the least innocent.

One of the side-effects of the present pro-hanging campaign is an attack upon the 'softness' of the Labour Government. One must be fair. They never suspended hanging for five years. It was the work of an individual member who forced the Bill through as a Private Member's Bill. The Labour Party only gave him the time.

Ironically enough, the BBC have been running a TV series on crime during which Lord Devlin was invited by Robin Day to speak of a case in which he knew that severe punishment had stamped out crime. He mentioned the Notting Hill riots when huge sentences were handed out. He has apparently forgotten that one of the boys sentenced in that case was, after his prison experience, sentenced for murder. Prisons are apparently still the universities of crime.

One of the maddening questions asked of anarchist speakers is 'what happens in an anarchist society when a homicidal maniac attacks?' The free society cannot guarantee that there will be no homicidal attacks but it is in how the maniac will be dealt with that distinguishes a free society. Some things are certain; in a free society the conditions that propagate murderers will not exist, and homicidal maniacs will certainly not have the power to dominate the sane citizens which they possess today.

JACK ROBINSON.

ANARCHY 67

discusses

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I REMEMBER SOMEONE saying that my attachment to my way of life in the woods was like being in love. It certainly came as a hard wrench when I was forced to give it up. I could have put up more of a fight, but I was too dispirited and didn't see how I could win anyway. The words of that letter made the break inevitable.

Dear Sir,

We understand that you are wrongfully occupying as a trespasser a cottage belonging to our client. We are writing to give you notice that unless you leave the premises at once proceedings will be taken against you as a trespasser.

They had the cheek to call my palace a 'cottage'! They'd obviously never seen the house because they didn't address the letter properly, even though it was marked on the map as 'Wood Lodge'. And it deserved a proper name too!

One Sunday morning when I was moving in, a neighbour forced his way through the jungle that had been the garden and told me its history. Apparently it had been built by a Gentleman for his mistress. She had had servants, horses, and a carriage to go out in—the half mile track to the road was once a good carriageway. Surrounded on three sides by 180 acres of woodland and with a field on the other, it must have been an ideal place to keep a mistress. There still existed an atmosphere in that clearing—I felt it the first time I went there. It was a peaceful happy place and I feel sure they must have had a good time there. The house was built idealistically in a very un-English way. It was styled as a villa—with a cobbled verandah at the front and pillars supporting a (non-

utilitarian) classical front, and it had a small courtyard in the centre of the house, and shutters to the windows.

I had felt at home at once, and began creating order around me. I lived in one room at first with an ex-army bed and lots of books. Then I began to use the old kitchen, and later I made a bedroom upstairs. Eventually I was utilising five rooms and storing things in others. I bought cheap furniture from auctions and I got a calor gas cooker and a sink unit. I began to use the old copper for washing and heating water for the tin bath. (At first I used to stand IN the copper to bath, and had to hop up and down to stop my feet burning on the bottom where the fire was. If anyone from the village had called and seen me stark naked boiling myself in the copper they'd have probably had me certified—they thought I was mad enough anyway.)

I dug and planted the garden, built myself a greenhouse, kept about 150 hens in the old barn (they roamed about everywhere—one with suicidal instincts climbed into the cooker one day), had a squad of broodies sitting in boxes in an old earth-floored room, and a couple of very proud cockerels. I cut my fuel from the wood, grew much of my own

food (in summer I had a full salad in the garden and became a vegetarian temporarily), and illegally bartered eggs for goods at the village shop. People called it 'the simple life' but it was much less simple than dragging off to the factory every morning, and collecting a wage packet every Friday, and much more demanding.

I registered with the Egg Marketing Board and took my eggs down to the road every week to meet the van at an agreed time. Only once did I get the days really wrong. I went into town one Friday thinking it was Saturday—everyone was amazed that I'd got the days wrong, and I must admit that it shook me up too! That was before I had a radio.

There was only one thing wrong—I was often lonely. Friends found it a long way to come, and some were put off by the mud, etc. To go into town was like an expedition. First of all I had to round up the chickens because of the danger from foxes, and they always knew and asserted their freedom in a very stubborn manner. I would bribe them with grain but they would always seem to enjoy the patch of grass furthest away more. I often had to run for the bus in the end, and once lost it because

my shoe came off in the mud at the last moment and the bus sailed past leaving me infuriated—I ate chicken that weekend I think. Nostalgia sweetens the past, but at times I was lonely, sometimes I didn't see another human being for several days at a time. Readers of FREEDOM may remember an ad;

WALDEN ANYONE? Thoreau may have lived in the wild woods on his lonesome but Tony, 20, is cheesed off. Eight-roomed house of character partly in need of repair. Sited half-mile from road in 100 acre wood. Some land cleared. Possible eviction proceeding only draw-back. Interested males/females please write Tony Reeder, 'Wood Lodge', Hintlesham, Nr. Ipswich.

I had some replies (one from a girl who wrote on lavatory paper) but nothing came from it because there was no security of tenure. I was also visited by two girls who'd run away from home and later by the vicar who'd heard about it.

When I did go into town, the last bus back went a different way and I had to walk over two miles in the dark along lanes and through the woods. This was spooky, but I got used to the owls and bats and indefinable noises in the night. I classified most of these, and would reassure myself as I went along—'Ah, that's only an old elm creaking' and I would continue with my shadow striding Goliath-sized beside me as I held the little oil lamp. I even gave up looking over my shoulder (I've caught the habit again—all the blokes at work do it). I used to recite Coleridge to myself:

'Like one that on a lonely road
Doth walk in fear and dread,
And having once turned round, walks on

And turns no more his head:
Because he knows a frightful fiend
Doth close behind him tread.'

If my security had not been threatened, I believe I could have overcome this loneliness—I had plans for improving the track and for working to save and buy a Land Rover.

Now it's all gone and my plans came to nothing. The house is now a ruin, the lead has been stripped from the roof, the windows smashed, and the garden is smothered with seven-foot thistles. Before I left we made a sacrifice of despair—we burnt my piano, my furniture, everything, and painted slogans on the walls (I regret this now) saying, 'Where there is authority there is no freedom', 'Farmers out, all land to the workers', 'Seize the barracks', 'One world, one class, Socialism in our time', etc. It looks as though a Civil War was fought there—a faded red and black flag hangs from the chimney.

Now it's all gone I realize how much of a loss it is. All the sights, and sounds, and smells, demanded more of my senses and seemed to make me grow. I made some observations of natural life, saw examples of mutual aid in chickens, and learned all sorts of things about myself as well. I got some friends to lower me down the 80 foot well and I found an antique knife grinder as well as junk. The environment and me seemed one most of the time. Now I work in industry (when I can drag myself up in the morning) at a JOB where I feel alien and out of place. The only reason I go is because I need their dirty money. If I got more on the dole I would almost welcome Mr. Brown's unemployment. I get nostalgic for a place of my own, for the woods and the fields, and the chickens scratching about. I feel I've paid too high a price for electricity, mains water and sewerage that I have in my flat in town. I think I prefer freedom to 'civilization'.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

TONY REEDER.

ROUND THE GALLERIES

I HAVE HAD little use for the work of David Hockney, believing that his limited talent has been foisted onto a willing and monied middle class by extrovert showmanship on his part and a skilled and cynical manipulation by the art world. That the hack critics of the national press and weeklies have fallen in step is not to be doubted, for the approval of the galleries is their daily bread and their weekly wine tasting. And Hockney has reigned as the pop star of the art world almost as long as the Beatles and, in the fullness of time with as little effect and influence on the creative arts. But each in their own fashion have brought a measure of happiness to a section of the Western societies, so it can be held that they have earned their daily bread.

At a time when the unfortunate Beatles are having to make a public and abject Stalin-style declaration of a belief in the Almighty, Hockney is lording it at the Kasmin Gallery at 118 New Bond Street, W.1, if not in person, then through the sets and costumes he has designed for the Royal Court production of Alfred Jarry's *Ubu Roi*. It has long been a mistaken belief that an artist working on the intimate scale of the framed canvas can successfully cope with the large area of the player's stage and, while it is a gamble well worth taking, it has usually ended in failure. In a failure that has always been salvaged by the journeymen craftsmen of the theatre who have to build the backcloth and tailor the costumes on the doodles and the scribbled notations of the hired puff ball of the moment. I myself find Hockney's infantile scribbles peculiar to the temper of our time and if his work were to be offered

from an unknown brush I doubt if they would be deemed worthy of any serious consideration.

Yet, if they must be judged, it must be in relation to the Max Ernst production of Jarry's *Ubu Enchaîné* produced by Sylvain Itkine in Paris in 1937. In that production Ernst, while not designing the costumes, cluttered the stage with all the junk of the surrealist movement of the time with a backcloth of *collage-décor*s made from photographically enlarged old prints and at the Royal Court the producer and the artist have, through various necessities, cleared the stage of that ancient cultural junk and given us a stage as unsophisticated as the contents of a child's drawing slate and it is fitting that once in each lifetime, for no matter what reason, we should see the bare boards and become aware of the actor's miming and the playwright's language.

But what is important at the Kasmin Gallery is not these drear designs for an ancient flop but 12 etchings by David Hockney to illustrate the poems of C. P. Cavafy. Newly translated by Stephen Spender and Nilos Stangos, these twelve poems have been brilliantly illuminated by Hockney. Cavafy's lines are a simple declaration of the physical pleasures of homosexuality and they neither challenge nor protest the love of man for man. As honest and unaffected as any orthodox love songs they speak of the clerk and the evening, the wine shops and the hot and silent rooms in Alexandria where *Enjoyment of flesh through / half-torn clothes; / quickly bared flesh; apparition; / twenty-six years passed; and now / returned / to remain in this poetry.* Here Hockney's simple and childlike line has succeeded and his etchings for these

poems have the primitive strength of the backstreet *male art* magazines and the taunt and haunted beauty of subterranean graffiti. Hockney's young men lay naked upon the hot sheets defying and accepting the peering spectator for, again to quote Cavafy, *I made you handsome, sentimental, / My art adds to your face.*

Here truly is the perfect marriage of two minds and two arts. Here is the poetry that sings of the sad and pathetic beauty of those who do no wrong yet are doomed to be damned and Hockney, to his credit, has chosen not to offer us some spurious gilded figure from a new fired Greek vase from the shelves of an Oxford Street supermarket but a study of those who *having fulfilled their lawless pleasure . . . secretly go out of the house / one at a time.* Yet always the last cry must be with Cavafy for it is his song and his plea of *How life has gained, and the artist too! Tomorrow, or the next day, or years / after / mighty poems will be written, / of which these lines are the beginning.*

And for you who like your decadence tinted by the glass of age there is the work of Christophe Henri Karel de Nerée tot Babberich. He died in 1909 at the age of 29 and his work, as with his life and his death, must of necessity bear comparison with that of Aubrey Beardsley. Yet he lacked Beardsley's ability to work purely in black and white, the Englishman's range of grotesques and the ability to create the illusion of space by the brilliance of his use of design. Paul Grinke has written that De Nerée is far closer to the European *Jugendstil* than English *Art Nouveau* and that judgement carries with it all the faults of the German movement yet, for all that, this work by De Nerée at the Piccadilly Gallery at 16a Cork Street, W.1, is the work of a talented young artist who died so very young.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

(As there is no national secretariat for enquiries, speakers, etc., please contact local groups.)

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.

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

AUG. 28 Roger Sandell
Which Way for Anarchism?
SEPT. 1 (Thursday)
LAG/2 business meeting
SEPT. 4 John Pilgrim
Working class authoritarianism

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 Room's, 148a Fellows Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.

REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS

ALTRINCHAM ANARCHIST YOUTH GROUP. Get in touch with Stephen Richards, 25 North Vale Road, Timperley, Cheshire.
ABERDEEN GROUP. Correspondence to M. Dey, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.
ARLESEY GROUP (N. Herts., 5 Beds.). Meetings on first Friday of month. Correspondence to Peter and Maurine Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.
BELFAST. Contact Peter Stringer, 7 Duffy

Street, Belfast, 13.

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

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

ASTON GROUP. Dave Massey, 2 Station Road, Elworth, Sandbach, Cheshire.

BRISTOL FEDERATION. Enquiries to Ian Vine, 7 Richmond Dale, Bristol, 8.

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

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 Balliol Street every two weeks. Contact Joe Embleton.

HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 12 Shawbridge, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.

ILFORD LIBERTARIANS. Fortnightly meetings and Action. Fred Ross, 212 Vicarage Road, Leyton, E.10.

IPSWICH ANARCHISTS. Contact Neil Dean, 74 Cemetery Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

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

LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13. September Meetings 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at Terry Liddle's, 83 Gregory Crescent, SE9.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact

Gerry Bree, 16 Falkner Square, Liverpool, 8.

NEW HAM LIBERTARIANS. Contact Mick Shenker, 122 Hampton Road, Forest Gate, Barltrop's, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near Saffron Walden.

NOTTING HILL PROVO'S. Correspondence to Brian Joseph, 1st Floor, 27 Arundel Gardens, London, W.11. Meeting every first Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. Ground floor flat, 5 Colville Houses, London, W.11.

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

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maurine 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. 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

WANDSWORTH LIBERTARIANS. Correspond-

ence to Christine Hutton, 15 Broughton Street, London, S.W.8.

FULHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact top floor, 31 Ongar Road, S.W.6.

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim 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

LINCOLN AND NEWARK. Anyone interested please contact John Walker, Swiss Corner, Whisby, Lincoln.

LOUGHTON, ESSEX. Please get in touch with Alycea Culpin, Golding's, Clays Lane, Loughton, Essex.

TYNESIDE SYNDICALISTS. Address c/o Michael Renwick, 122 Mowbray Street, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 6.

KEIGHLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Robert Halstead, 27 Woodlands Rise, Haworth, Keighley, Yorks.

ABROAD

U.S.A. NEW YORK CITY. N.Y. Federation of Anarchists, c/o Torch Bookshop, 641 East 9th Street, N.Y., 10009. Meets every Thursday evening.

AUSTRALIA. Anarchist Group, PO Box A 389, Sydney South. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain, 2 p.m. and Mondays, 72 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney, 8 p.m.

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

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.

U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE. Discussion/Action Group, anyone? Contact T. R. Jackson, Corinth, Vermont.

POLICE AND PROPERTY

Continued from page 1
an alleged battle cry of 'Three coppers have been done in London today. Let's make it four'. The Billericay hooligans could claim the ignorance of youth but what could that pinchbeck Socrates of the BBC, Robin Day, claim as justification for his cry *havoic* when common sense demanded a quiet and a rational tongue and not magisterial pronouncements that, when broken down to their stark fundamentals, were on a level with that of the harridan in the Shepherd's Bush Road whose advice to the world in general was: 'Why don't they hang the fuckers?'

As the crowd stood and watched the police climbing over and around the Richmond public house she continued to scream out her advice of 'Hang the fuckers' and she was listened to with approval, indifference and embarrassment, yet she but echoes the placard of the local press that screamed in large black type 'POLICE MURDERS. MASS CAMPAIGN FOR HANGING', and the Delphic voice that with measured words spat out the same message of black hatred from the television screens.

Those men who have so far been arrested and charged with murder will be placed on trial before a jury and let those who have been so vociferous during these last few days explain if not to their public, at least to themselves, where the court will find an impartial jury when these men have already been tried by the organs of mass communication.

But always there is the nagging question that the police, despite a minority within their ranks, have a worthwhile job of social importance. Yet this is not so, for almost the very same people who demand the revenge of judicial killing for causing the death of a policeman demand that the police shall be relieved of their social functions of

traffic control, lost property and all the rest of that citizen-aid time-wasting, that so endears them to all the old ladies in the saloon bars of the world, that they may concentrate on their true function of crime prevention and crime prevention in the final and brutal analysis is the protection of property.

In the week that daily filled its press and screen with the slanted stories of the hunt for the men wanted in question with the killing of the three policemen, M. Rabinovich has been sentenced to death by a Moscow court for embezzling State property, a Paddington civil servant was committed for trial at the Old Bailey accused of three murders and in Knin in Croatia six children were blown to pieces while trying to open a land mine left over from the last war, yet all this was lost within the inside pages of the national press as part of the news trivia of the hour.

When those three policemen chose their calling they ordered the manner of their death as surely and as coldly as the man who shot them. They fought and they died so that every shopkeeper, bookmaker and major or minor industrialist could sleep gently in his bed knowing that, whatever the sacrifice, property is sacred, yea even unto death.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

Let us have your orders NOW for the 8-page FREEDOM September 17

ANARCHISTS AGAINST WAR

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, which is involved with the US in the Vietnam war, is conscripting youths of 20 by a ballot system. Recently the government decided to call up resident aliens of 20 (as in the US) for the Vietnam war.

A number of migrants, chiefly Greek since their community has a leftist streak in it, have formed a migrant committee against conscription, thus adding to the number of anti-conscription groups, but little has happened overseas except that some governments, ever-jealous of their

powers, have protested. Greece has protested and Spain is considering, with Italy, what joint line they should take. It would, however, be much better if there were substantial protests overseas.

The anarchists in Australia and New Zealand are trying to spread their ideas in the protest movements and any overseas action by anarchists, or organized by anarchists, would be helpful in this direction, as well as embarrassing the government. Another 'Australia House' demonstration would certainly be reported in the Australian Press. Apart from this any action in Holland, Sweden, France or if possible, in Greece would help and will receive wide coverage. The Australian-New Zealand Anarchist Congress and the Melbourne University Campaign against conscription issued the following statement:

'The Australian Government plans to conscript aliens for the vicious war in Vietnam. Migrants have come to Australia to escape war and oppression; now under US direction they are threatened again.

'We call upon all anarchists, pacifists and humanitarians to lead the protests against this latest militarist scheme so that the weight of adverse international opinion will force them to abandon their plans.'

P. R. GILES PETERS.

COULPORT CUMALLYE!

COULPORT CUMALLYE!
A pleasant weekend in the Scottish Highlands.

Meet at Helensburgh.
Noon, September 24.
Organised by Scottish Campaign for Resistance against Militarism.

Contact Jim Livingstone, Rutherglen, Scotland.
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'China Leaders Say Policy is Correct'—Morning Star

THREE LONDON POLICEMEN are to receive the British Empire Medal for their part in the arrest of criminals on two separate incidents. In one case two officers had ammonia squirted in their eyes, they were also threatened with an axe, in the other case a constable was threatened with a loaded pistol.

THE QUEEN-MOTHER opened the Tay Bridge in the construction of which five men were killed. A Norfolk tractor driver was killed when his tractor overturned. A miner was killed by falling rock at Madeley Wood Colliery, Shropshire.

TWO POLICE-CONSTABLES in Birmingham were sent for trial on charges of stealing 'dirty' books and films from a subway kiosk. Two policemen at Chertsey, Surrey, were sent for trial accused of being armed with an iron bar and robbing a hotel clerk of £700. A detective was committed for trial on a charge of stealing a ring from a house where he was investigating a murder. A magistrate's clerk was sent for trial from Godalming, Surrey, for embezzling fines sent by post.

WRITS HAVE BEEN ISSUED on behalf of Mr. Ricardo Pedrini and Mr. Alan Cheeseman claiming damages for assault, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution and conspiracy arising out of their arrest in September 1962. The writs are against H. G. Challenor and others.

AN INQUIRY by the Chief Justice of Gibraltar into the allegations that four Gibraltar policemen assaulted two Spanish workers has resulted in a finding that the allegations were not substantiated. A Johannesburg magistrate said that police action in taking a dog into the crowded non-white Flamingo Club was partly responsible for a stampede

of the patrons in which ten people died.

REUTER AND TRUD reported the sentencing to death of M. Rabinovitch, 'a Jew', to death for embezzling state property. The *Morning Star* commendably omits the description of the defendant. A Greek Jehovah's Witness is to appeal against sentence of death for conscientious objection.

A RUSSIAN DESERTER hid from the authorities for 24 years in a Soviet village. He is, according to *Trud*, still on the run—looking for a job, although Soviet officials have decided that he should not be punished as a deserter. Tony Smythe of the NCCL refers in *Tribune* to the case of John Mayhew who joined the Navy at 16 and has been refused discharge ever since. Tony Smythe writes, 'there must be an end to the practice of permitting young men of 15 and 16 to contract for nine year engagements, particularly,' he adds, 'as these do not start to run until the age of 17½.' He also refers to an anonymous letter he has had from a pacifist deserter from the Navy who went on the run at the age of 18. Now he has seven GCEs and hopes to enter college in the autumn.

PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA has closed down the country's only beat-music club and called for a ban on mini-skirts and Beatle-style haircuts. The club was called 'Zero de Conduit'.

JOHN LENNON of the Beatles is reported to have said (in the US too), 'If a man doesn't feel like fighting, he should have the right not to go into the army.'

ACTION, THE JOURNAL of Oswald Mosley's European Union Movement, advertises ties for sale to 18b detainees (i.e. those

detained 1940-45 for 'enemy association'), 'of good quality with a small 18b in gold imprisonment without charge or trial be-letters on blue Terylene' 'available to those patriots who had the honour of stowed upon them in 1940'. Price? 20/- each.

NORTHERN NOVELISTS in a public discussion at Harrogate discussed censorship. Sid Chaplin said that a censor of literature was as detestable a figure as the public hangman; John Braine said that he hated a situation in which 'ignorant magistrates and ignorant judges' could decide the future of innocence; and Philip Oakes said that he had not met a censor in any medium for whom he had the least respect, either as judge or individual. He said the 'James Bond series is total obscenity. It has no reverence for life; it presents life totally brutalized. It would be far safer distributing works of the Marquis de Sade to every schoolchild.' At a conference later in the week, a clergyman appealed for the virtues of Bulldog Drummond, rather than those of James Bond. It was pointed out by a *Guardian* correspondent that Bulldog Drummond was, to all intents and purposes, a Fascist both in political outlook and behaviour. Perhaps his sexually impeccable behaviour was sufficient recommendation to the clergy.

VILLAGERS OF KAIAPIT, near Lae, in Papua, left their jobs to prepare for the end of the world (Thursday, August 18). Pigs were slaughtered and crops harvested for a big feast. This is assumed to be part of the 'cargo cult' which believes the day will come when a supply of white man's goods will arrive and make the followers of the cult rich.

It didn't happen.

ION QUIXOTE.

Is this an Answer?

Comrades,

Alan Parker does not work at or for the Rowen Engineering Co. Ltd., and therefore has no voice in what the workers there decide.

The majority of workers, controlling their own factory, have decided that they do not want to work with Walter Morrison.

Perhaps you, the editors, in view of your holier than anybody comments, would care to give us the benefit of your experience of workers control at Freedom Press, or any of the other workers control enterprises you must have been involved in?

I hope at least you may be able to explain to Alan Parker that in a workers control factory the manager does not have the power to which he alludes, and which, I suspect, he covets.

Glasgow, S.1

C. R. JOHNSON,
Manager, Rowen
Engineering Co. Ltd.

Thoughts on 'FREEDOM' -1

Dear Comrades,

In reply to the Swedish comrade who considers the paper somewhat sub-standard (though anything from abroad which will help us to know what other anarchists think is very welcome). I would reply that he is fortunate to be able to read English well enough, as FREEDOM is the only weekly anarchist paper in the world with unpaid contributors. True it is little more than a sheet as far as pages go (try folding it in a high wind, and your copy will finish in tatters most likely), but I think a lot is to be read in a limited amount of space without the paper looking a

LETTERS

desperate jumble, while the sub-headings are clear and eye-catching. Perhaps FREEDOM could expand (why weren't there any photos submitted by comrades at election time and on the march? I saw quite a few cameras on the latter, and we could also do with an occasional cartoon by Arthur Moyses) but more doesn't automatically mean better, and at the moment FREEDOM is very well balanced in form and content; besides we were 'with-it' with an attractive new lay-out some time before *The Times* and the *New Statesman*. Not bad for a bunch of unpaid part-time editors! But it seems we're doomed to work on a tight budget, and under Wilson and his merry band of robbers, even anarchism will become a more expensive hobby/way of life. Unless the complaints start rolling in, FREEDOM has found the right formula for an anti-political paper; besides after reading mostly unadulterated muck from Sunday onwards in the capitalist press, I am grateful to bury my head in FREEDOM by Friday night, even though my non-political friends persistently mistake it for the *Daily Mirror*.

RON PEARL.

-2

Dear Editors,

Following your request for comments on FREEDOM, these suggestions were produced in the course of a recent meeting.

We agree that the paper would be considerably enlivened by the introduction of illustrations. These could perhaps be used in features on social and other issues putting a libertarian view, something on the lines of the *Sunday Times* 'Insight'; we are ourselves planning such an article on Aberdeen's sub-population of elderly alcoholics and down-and-outs. Obviously FREEDOM is limited as regards space at the moment, so it might be advisable to increase the size and price, say, to 6-8 pages and 6d. respectively.

Objections were raised to the regular 'Round the Galleries' feature. It was felt that the space could be put to better use for news and more readers' comments and letters, for FREEDOM is not really a literary or artistic review, and that space could surely be found for such comment in the more theoretical and intellectual *Anarchy*.

inefficiency in the production of what should be a crisp, up-to-the-minute journal of anarchist news and ideas?

Hoping you will find these comments of some use.

Yours fraternally,

FORBES BROWNE
CLIFF DRESSLE
IAN MACDONALD
JOHN MAILER
IAN MITCHELL
IAN SUTHERLAND
For Aberdeen
Anarchists.

Jailed in Mexico

Dear Friends,

Your contemporary *Peace News* on July 8 mentioned the case of *DYKES SIMMONS*.

Dykes Simmons is a young American who was (apparently wrongly) arrested and charged with murder soon after crossing the Mexican border for a holiday.

He was sentenced to death but not executed. However, he has been kept in prison for the past 6 or 7 years. If efforts are not made to get his release he will be there at least 23 years more. He was offered freedom if he confesses but he refuses.

His mother and two friends visited him recently and found him lying in a pool of blood. He had been brutally beaten by the guards that morning.

The prison is the State Penitentiary, Monterey, Mexico, and anyone interested in helping him should write to the Rev. Ashton B. Jones, 6252 N. Golden West, Temple City, Calif. 91780, USA.

The conduct of the US authorities has been deplorable, cowardly and evasive.

I am sure your readers will want to help him, so they should write to the Rev. Ashton Jones who will send full particulars. Please do all you can. One other point, he is kept in a tiny sweltering cell.

Kew, Surrey

PHILIP OSMOND.

Press Fund

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:
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Income: Sales and Subs.: £1885

DEFICIT £755

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TOTAL £10 16 5
Previously Acknowledged: £705 7 8

1966 Total to Date: £716 4 1

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

Who's Bluffing Whom?

THE OPPOSITION to the wage freeze has developed from a ripple to a medium swell, especially by those who have 'had it' now to find they haven't.

Paper workers employed by the *Evening News* (Associated Newspapers) are enjoying the benefits of a productivity increase, which the Ministry of Labour claim is in defiance of the wage freeze if the management continue to pay. Associated Newspapers accept the advice of the Ministry, but point out that they have bilateral agreements with the union. The employers have suggested to the Ministry that they have discussions with the union, to convince them of the necessity of the wage freeze.

Paper workers employed by the *Evening Standard* are making exactly the same demands, although their pact has not yet been ratified or implemented. *Evening Standard* workers have given notice of strike action in a week's time.

Print union leaders are to see Gunter on Tuesday, August 23, not only on the question of productivity pacts, but on the highly inflammatory question of the freezing of the 'cost of living' bonus. Under the sliding scale arrangement print workers are due for a 2s. COL increase starting September 1.

Print employers are not sorry that the COL arrangements have been frozen; in fact the British Federation of Master Printers (BFMP) are refusing to negotiate any new agreement which included Contracting. If Wilson took this line of thought many trade union leaders might 'climb off his

back'. The sliding scale arrangement. There we have it, a Labour Government, the bastard child of the trade union movement implementing the employers' policy.

It is reported that electricians employed by the *Sunday Times* are talking in terms of strike action to secure their rise under a house agreement, which has been under discussion for several months.

Junior doctors, railwaymen, draughtsmen, public employees, all have the same immediate problem, and in the long term the problem involves all workers which all points to the need for concerted rank and file action.

In the next fortnight or so one of two things can happen, either the trade union leadership is persuaded to 'drop their opposition with a heavy heart' or the Government will implement Part 4 of the Prices and Incomes Bill, which means any employer not conforming to the conditions of the freeze is subject to a fine of £100. If the workers take action against the employers, to force their demands they in turn are subject to 'fine'.

Clive Jenkins, General Secretary of ASSET, is really going wild with the big stick, his union is going to take to court any employer who withholds an increase under the freeze. 'Big Deal!' Even me with my limited knowledge of the law realise how long this procedure could take, apart from the fact that employers might welcome a decision that union-managements agreements are enforceable at law. 'Oh! Gawd please protect me from my friends.'

Wilson on the other hand could play it clever. Aubrey Jones, chairman of PIB, has indicated that he would be willing to establish a basis against which productivity agreements could be measured. He also indicated that he would try and publish a judgement before the end of the year.

This being the case Wilson may be tempted to look at productivity pacts in a more relaxed frame of

mind such as British Oxygen, Elec- Before Part 4 of the Bill can be implemented Parliament would have to be recalled. The \$64,000 question is, could Wilson risk it with Labour members scattered about all over the world? With the possibility of some accidentally returning by the longest route.

Wilson also has to bear in mind the close proximity of the TUC, and Labour Party annual conferences, it wouldn't do for 'his image' to be defeated at both. Although in reality it doesn't really matter. He has no need to take notice of either. Gaitskell didn't and got away with it.

What of the employers who defy the dividend standstill? Cyril Lord of 'Enkalon' fame is paying shareholders an increased dividend which he forecast on January 25 last. Cyril Lord claims, 'we do not feel we are doing anything against the Government's freeze. That is not our intention. We are limiting the dividend to what we promised. But for the freeze we would have paid more.'

If this goes through then every wage claim is valid, because if it wasn't for the freeze every worker would have asked for more, but being patriots they kept their demands within the 'norm'.

Another businessman(?) trying to get on the band wagon is Angus Ogilvy, Princess Alexandra's old man. He is managing director of Consolidated Trust who want to raise their payments. They are playing it shrewd—they have consulted the Treasury.

Looking through the daily press over the past week, one would imagine that the Prices and Incomes Bill is only concerned with incomes (which in reality it is). Thousands of words must have been written about workers' demands defying the wage freeze, and in a couple of column inches there is reported 36 price increases, but I forgot, they all must be seasonal price fluctuations which, according to the White Paper are legitimate.

Here we have before us the whole sordid scene, a Labour Government desperately trying to sew up the slightly widening seams of capitalism and attempting to use the labour power of the workers to do it.

Printworkers are not noted for their skill with a needle and in the next few weeks it's up to them to prove it. Having said that, the picture must be made perfectly clear. On this issue the Government is challenged in which case the system is challenged. Can the challenge be taken to its logical conclusion? If the majority of workers want it that way it can, if not, then 1926 has taught us no lesson.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

IRISH WORKERS' RIGHTS

ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 300 people assembled in Hyde Park to listen to speakers from various trade unions and political groups fighting the Irish Government's proposed legislation against trade unions in the 26 counties. It is not generally realised in this country that *habeas corpus* has been suspended in the Irish Republic and workers and small farmers have been jailed and thrown in prison without even being charged with any offence. It is not solely a law against trade unions but against basic human rights.

Led by the Starry Plough James Connolly, old flag of the Citizen Army, the march went to the Irish Embassy and stayed outside the Embassy for an hour on a picket. This was a very peaceful demonstration but no petition was handed in as the organisers felt that the Irish Government would get a petition in the form of a slap on the face from the Irish workers and no pious petitions would help the matter.

The anarchists who came on the march were rather the liveliest section. However it might seem a good time to think of some more relevant slogan than 'Anarchy In' as the spectacle of one part of the march shouting 'Anarchy In' to be answered 'Anarchy Out' by another (however good-humouredly) is hardly calculated to make a favourable impression on anyone, including our comrades. A little more thought before you shout comrades! SPARKS.

FREEDOM For Workers' Control

AUGUST 27 1966 Vol 27 No 27

The Struggle at ENV's

THE ATTACK on the Shop Stewards' Committee of ENV, a West London engineering factory, is still going on. In previous issues of FREEDOM (Vol. 27, Nos. 21, 22, 24), I wrote that the dispute would be a long one, involving the issue of control, which no management can in fact overlook. The new Managing Director, Mr. Townsend, felt that they should revert back to the position where 'the management takes back into its hands the reasonable functions of management'.

In order to achieve this, Mr. Townsend wanted to scrap all the existing agreements in the factory and re-negotiate new ones, starting again from scratch. The management said that either the workers agreed to this by a secret ballot or they would close down the factory. These ballots were rejected by an overwhelming majority of the men. Even when the Electoral Reform Society sent out postal voting forms, workers gave them in to their stewards and so the attempt to get ENV workers to vote on an ultimatum failed.

It must be realised that ballots of this nature cut right across shop-floor negotiating procedure. The ballot was an attempt to by-pass the shop stewards, the representatives of the men. It gives them no negotiating rights whatsoever, but just asks for an answer of 'yes' or 'no'.

Throughout this period the management formally refused to recognise the shop stewards. They got the support of the Employers' Association on this issue and the full implications of this are important, for this is an official denial of the right of proper negotiation. The Union officials recognised this and withdrew from the conference.

USING THE SAME TACTICS

It is important to remember how the ENV management has attempted to undermine the whole basis of union organisation and negotiating rights. A leaflet published by the ENV Shop Stewards' Committee makes this point: 'The tactics being employed by the ENV American management can be used elsewhere at other factories. It is no accident that they are being tried out at ENV. For years we have given a lead in relation to wage rates and working conditions, so an attack on us, if successful, can in turn

have its effects on workers everywhere.

'Almost immediately after the American takeover (1962), at our request, a conference was held attended by local officials of the Union at which an assurance was given in writing that all our existing agreements would be honoured, and that in the event of the management seeking changes they would negotiate through the proper procedure.

'We are suffering the utmost provocations. At the moment we are working normally, there is not one dispute in the factory, but still the management refuse to negotiate. They are seeking arbitrarily to introduce such things as Time and Motion, cuts in Piece Rates and Bonuses, Compulsory Overtime and Shift Working, and virtually wipe out all existing agreements with complete disregard to the Union.'

The leaflet ends: 'The ENV Shop Stewards' Committee is ready, now, as always, to negotiate with the management, and if necessary to re-negotiate existing agreements. We are not prepared, under any circumstances, to accept an ultimatum from the management which involves the smashing of union procedure and arbitrary cuts in the workers' standard of living.'

By the time this paper is out, another meeting will have been held, attended by representatives of the Engineering Employers' Association, the Company, district union officials and shop stewards. This meeting was called for by the ENV head, Mr. Townsend, and he hopes that from it 'the lines should be clearly drawn and some developments should follow'.

The struggle at ENVs is by no means over yet. The shop stewards and the workers have held their own very well and must be congratulated on the stand they have put up. The ultimatums of the management have failed and the threat of the shut-down has cut no ice. No doubt ENVs now have more subtle methods in mind. Whatever these workers at ENV have done, they have shown the management that they are not going to give in without a struggle. So far the Shop Stewards' Committee and the men are winning, but these are still early days.

P.T.

Contact Column

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

World FreeThought Rally. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1. Friday, September 2, 7 p.m., Public meeting. Sunday, September 4, 7 p.m., Concert. Tickets 4/-. National Secular Society, 103 Borough High Street, London, S.E.1.

Vietnam. What are you doing about genocide in Vietnam? Volunteers wanted for a Vietnam Peace Action Group—members of any organisation or none—but must be active dependable and prepared to participate in unusual projects. Phone: BEC 7517.

Mental Illness. Will anybody who is interested in mental illness please get in touch with me. Box No. 38.

Libertarian Teachers' Association. Copies of second bulletin now available. Sixpence each (2/- for five). P. Ford.

Tourist Accommodation Wanted. American woman, travelling in Europe, needs CHEAP accommodation in London for approximately three weeks in September. Prefer relatively central location. Would like companion for European travels. Garcia Davidson, 63 Winfield, San Francisco, USA.

Megaton. Aberdeen CND magazine. No. 2 just out with article on CND break. Order from R. Comrie, 288 Hardgate, Aberdeen (10d. including postage) or from Freedom Bookshop.

Abolishment. Campaign for the Abolishment of International Royalty being formed in all areas. Would those interested please write Robert Stuart, c/o 11 Goldstone Villas, Hove, Sussex, enclosing stamped addressed envelope.

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. Poet seeks poet-cheap room in West London. Otherwise responsible person. Box 33.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

Out for Recognition

far, from the money collected in Scotland and the North, etc., they have managed to supplement their £4 strike pay and so keep up the struggle. They have had a certain amount of success in other directions as well, for although this is an official dispute, the Company has managed to recruit 'scab' labour. Lorries taking out the reinforcement steel have been followed and a number of building sites have refused to handle the Square Grip materials. The strikers have been especially successful on Glasgow Corporation building schemes. In fact all their sites were threatened with strikes unless the materials of this Company were withdrawn and others ordered. This hit Square Grip hard and they went to law and managed to obtain an interim interdict which prevents the strikers picketing sites where Square Grip are making deliveries.

The thing that has hindered the strikers is that they have remained isolated. There

seems to have been no attempt nationally by the T & GWU not only to seek support at other factories of the Company, but also to inform the region officials and membership generally exactly what is going on. The common response by workers on hearing of this long dispute is, 'Why have we not been told before?' This again illustrates how far the so-called militancy of the Executive Council of the T & GWU really goes. They are not even carrying on a basic service for their members—one they should be doing, especially as this is an issue of trade union recognition.

The strike committee's leaflet says that they 'are still determined to win the right to form a trade union within the factory with full rights to negotiate wages and conditions.' These men need money to carry on this struggle. Readers can help by sending it to Ian Armstrong, 5 Loch Road, Chapelhall, Lanarkshire, Scotland.