

# The State is your Enemy

## VICTORY FOR KING HILL!



A COMMITTEE MEETING of the Friends of King Hill was held at 5 Clock House Road, Beckenham on Thursday, September 29.

Following a joint report from the Secretary and Chairman on the current situation and their recent discussions with members of the Kent County Council, it was agreed to inform all members and supporters of the campaign that it had now reached a successful conclusion.

Our 12 months' struggle with, and on behalf of, homeless families in Kent has brought about a complete change of attitude on the part of the County Council. They have now agreed to the basic demands contained in the King Hill charter. Husbands are now allowed to stay with their families and we have accepted the KCC's assurances that in future no families will be evicted from the Hostel while accommodation is available, simply for having exceeded a certain length of stay.

We are satisfied that real attempts are being made (by the Children's Department) to persuade local authorities to fulfil their obligation to rehouse King Hill families, and in fact during the past few months the majority of families involved in the campaign have been rehoused. (Although new families have moved in.)

During the full discussion that took place some members showed that they still held reservations about the KCC's conversion. A motion was carried that the committee should remain in existence: (a) To keep a watchful eye on developments at the Hostel, and (b) To organise support for Roy Mills' libel action against the *People* newspaper, and that the campaign should be regarded as indefinitely postponed — rather than terminated. Throughout the campaign we have worked in close co-operation with the families in the Hostel. We have, we think, successfully combined conventional and unorthodox methods, including various forms of direct action, and we have succeeded in publicising the Kent County Council's attitude to homeless families, not only throughout Britain, but in many other countries.

The campaign has involved trials in the High Courts and husbands have been imprisoned for staying with their families, while we have had injunctions taken out against us to prevent us from visiting the Hostel. Nevertheless, it continued relentlessly until July of this year, and we are now happy to report that, 12 months after it began, the campaign has succeeded. From these discussions it became clear that our campaign had

brought about a definite change in the Council's attitude. There was to be a new approach in dealing with King Hill Hostel in particular and homeless families in general. It was suggested to us that, because of the proposed changes, the Friends of King Hill should call off their campaign. Clearly this had become the most embarrassing problem that the Council had to deal with. We were still anxious about certain aspects of the proposed changes (e.g. the proposal to run down the Hostel accommodation to 20 or 30 units—at a time when we felt the need for such accommodation was likely to increase) and we detailed our doubts in correspondence with the Council. Nevertheless, it was agreed to call off the campaign for a six-week period.

Following further correspondence, an official meeting was arranged with the Chairman of the Children's Committee, Miss M. M. Burrows, and a representative of the County Clerk's office, Mr. R. Jepson. This meeting took place on September 16. Three members of the Friends of King Hill attended, including your Chairman and Secretary.

The discussion centred on the two rules excluding husbands and limiting a stay to three months. It became clear that, apart from their natural desire not to lose face, the Council do concede our right to be concerned and are trying to meet our demands. We were satisfied that husbands (who, in any case, have been staying at the Hostel in force for the last 12 months!) are now to be officially admitted.

Although the rule limiting stay is not to be rescinded, after lengthy discussion, we accepted absolute assurances from the Kent County Council side that, in practice, this rule would no longer be enforced. We kept in mind that over the previous 12 months, as a result of our campaign, no family had actually been evicted from the Hostel, although many having nowhere else to go had overstayed the three months' limit. We made sure that it was clearly understood that any attempt to enforce this rule again would be met with the full vigour of a renewed campaign.

We would like to emphasise that the success of this campaign has been due, at least as much, to the purpose and will to struggle of the families themselves as to what the Friends and others may have done to help.

JIM RADFORD (Chairman).  
ANDY ANDERSON (Secretary).

AFTER the defeat of Napoleon the victors (and the smaller powers) at the Congress of Vienna signed a pact which 'guaranteed peace'. This, as every schoolboy knows, was the work of The Holy Alliance (although the Holy See refused to sign). Nevertheless 'the settlement arrived at preserved Europe from any general conflagration for all but a century' (Harold Nicolson).

From a *status quo* standpoint this is a realistic statement, because such revolutions and their accompanying agitations that took place in 1848 or 1871 were irksome to governments but after they were put down left the Powers with no less authority over their subjects.

The Powers did not wage wars against each other and were free to tackle discontent within their own boundaries. Mass movements were either ruthlessly crushed or channelled into reformism.

When the Holy Alliance broke down in 1914 it not only resulted in the mass murder of the First World War (which is of no interest to governments) but the contracting out of one of its main props (Holy Russia). The main difficulty for the continuation of the *status quo* has ever since been how to accommodate a power that does not profess to believe in the *status quo*.

The Second World War, which brought the Soviet Union into the fold, once more left this problem (for the governments) still unsettled, although some understanding may have been reached (despite propaganda manifestations of the cold war) as the 1956 uprising in Hungary proved. The Soviet Union

was allowed to crush the rebellion within her acknowledged sphere of influence.

In other words rebellions that can be contained may offer governments momentary headaches but do not change the political map. Looking at it from this angle it is easier to understand why the Korean, and now the Vietnam, 'conflagration' occupy our consciences more than they affect those of governments. For us it is a question of mutilated bodies, death, starvation; for the governments it is merely restoring order within their sphere of influence.

Government knows that its greatest danger is not from within, because if governments topple whether violently or bloodlessly, another set of rulers will make sure that the State continues. Their greatest enemy is either another power that does not 'play the game' or a set of revolutionaries who do not wish to replace government by government. Anarchists come within the second category and offer theoretically the only challenge to the State.

But if one wants to understand the Vietnam 'problem' the first category has to be discussed. In whose sphere of influence is Vietnam? If it were within the boundaries of only one great Power the Vietnamese would have been crushed by now just as Hungary was.

The rogue elephant is, of course, China. China does not 'play the game'. It has taken on the Soviet Union's role in this respect.

For the great Powers the Vietnam skirmish is no more than an out-

landish disorder in a far-flung province. But its continuation could result in the Third World War which is quite a different matter. World wars, as we said before, frighten governments not because of the terrible suffering but because of the diminishing of governmental authority and the possibility of some fish escaping the net (as did the Soviet Union after the First World War and China after the Second World War).

All the efforts of world statesmen are concentrated towards this end: to bring the Soviet Union and China back into the Holy Alliance. The ossification of the Russian Revolution has now finally reached the stage where the Soviet Union can safely be trusted as a partner in this new Holy Alliance. This is the reason behind President Johnson's present offer of economic concessions to the Soviet bloc and also the sudden spate of conferences; the one in Manila to reassert American authority and the one in Moscow to reassert the Soviets. They must strengthen their own hand before they meet in the near future to carve up the world to their satisfaction at a new Congress of Vienna. And you can be sure that the problem of Vietnam will hardly be on the agenda.

If such a *détente* takes place between the US and the Soviet Union the encirclement of China will be complete and the long process of bringing China to toe the line will begin. Cut off from the rest of the world the Chinese may be ruled even more harshly or the masses may opt for anarchism in answer to the blockade.

What can anarchists do in the present situation? They should continue to expose and attack all sides who wish to oppress the Vietnamese people. There are those who say 'Peace in Vietnam', those who say 'Yanks out of Vietnam' and finally those who chant 'Victory to the Vietcong!' The first slogan unfortunately is no more than the continuation of the *status quo*, the second means Yanks out—Russians in! and the third Yanks, Russians out—Chinese in!

Exposing these governmental machinations is the important task—and if we did not present such a critique we would not be anarchists. Taking sides now can only mean compromise. But sooner or later the opportunity will occur when we can show our solidarity. Moscow Radio has already denounced the Chinese Red Guard as a hotbed of anarchy, the denigratory word that governments use for belittling opponents. But if, after the broadcast, the Red Guards looked up the real meaning in a dictionary? Or if those 'letters from China' that appear in *FREEDOM* really denote an active anarchist movement?

R.

## ... AND AFTER?

THIS LETTER has been sent to all Hostel Residents, past and present.

At the meeting of residents and friends the other day when the overall success of the campaign for a better hostel was described, the question was raised; what still remains to be done?

It was suggested that the main thing not yet tackled is the central problem of homeless families—what to do about getting a home.

There is a housing shortage in Southeast England. There are long lists of people waiting for council houses and few homes to rent from private landlords. To buy your own house with cash or a mortgage is only possible if you have plenty of money.

The only alternative for many families has been to squash in with relations or friends or come to King Hill and wait more or less hopefully for 'them' to do something.

But there is another possibility, based on the fact that groups of people can do more than individuals, and that is to form a housing association.

An officially registered housing association of eight or more people can borrow money for building or buying houses on more favourable terms than an individual mortgage, in that repayments can be spaced out over a longer period so that the weekly amount of 'rent' paid to a housing association can be less than the weekly mortgage repayment of an owner-occupier. If the association can obtain grants from the local authorities, central government or anyone else, the repayments become lower still, and you might find that this is a way of getting a house you can afford.

Since the non-profit-making housing society movement started in 1909 more than 100,000 families in Britain have housed themselves through associations. A group of families intending to form one can write to:

The National Federation of Housing Societies,  
12 Suffolk Street, London, S.W.1  
Phone: WHITEhall 1693

and the Federation undertakes to send a speaker to the group to explain procedure, and how to operate and organise an association.

Of course, it is not as easy as all that. There will be difficulties finding houses and raising the money. What will people do while they are waiting for their chance?

As things are, the only thing that can be hoped for is that the KCC will let you stay long enough at King Hill to tide you over; but if there is a run on the space at King Hill, KCC might find itself in difficulties, and even attempt to reintroduce the three months rule.

It might be possible to get over this by the Housing Association buying a large house as temporary accommodation for a number of families. Co-operatively owned, it could serve as an alternative to King Hill for those who preferred to run their own hostel their own way.

I have written some longer notes about this idea for anybody who is interested.

There are people among the Friends of King Hill, and people known to them who would be prepared to help if an association were formed, either for a co-operative hostel or for permanent housing or both. They include a solicitor and an architect.

Meanwhile, having written this circular at the request of hostel residents, I would be glad to attend any meetings you may decide to arrange on the subject, if you wish me to.

BRIAN RICHARDSON.

Greenways, Knockholt,  
Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent.  
Knockholt 2316.

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AKIN TO TREASON, by John Bulloch. Published by Arthur Barker. 25/-. 1,001 WAYS TO BEAT THE DRAFT, by Tuli Kupferberg and R. Bashlow, 25/-. LOSER TAKES ALL, by Anon. War Picture Library, No. 97.

TALES OF THE GREEN BERET, by Anon. Chicago Tribune Comic Section.

IT IS THE self-accepted cross of the traitor that, no matter how noble his motive and unselfish his aims, he is forever damned by the nature of his action. He must be accepted by the society he is betraying and he can never be assimilated into his alien host for he has but one Grecian gift to offer and when that has been spent he is but the man who has betrayed his tribe. For the spy who has exhausted his potentials there is the suburban house and the State pension, for he is but the queuing finger of the State and like all good government employees he deserves the patronage of his country and his government, but for the traitor there is but a lifetime of public and self-justification. Treason is not for you and I the human dross within this burning world, it is a game for the princes and the great captains when dominion over men and land could be achieved by slitting a friendly throat and all the authority of State and palace lay in the winning of a single crown but to be a traitor, like prostitution, is a despised trade open to all who have something to sell.

And there is this not so subtle difference between treason and the traitor to quote but the trinity of Plutarch, Dekker and Dryden who, each in his own fashion, cried *He loved treachery but hated a traitor, Kings may love treason, but the traitor hate or Treason is not own'd when 'tis descried: Successful crimes alone are justified.* There was a time, within our own lives, when the communist and the catholic could rise above the claims of national loyalties to betray all to the greater glory of God or the Party for each in his own fashion owed an allegiance to an ideology that transcended national frontiers and the quaint morality of such as we the common people but the split within the globular ranks of the communist party has left only the catholics to betray friend, foe and blood relative in the sure knowledge that it is for the ultimate good of all.

John Bulloch in his book *Akin to Treason* has wisely chosen not to sit in judgement on the men and women of whom he writes and he has also concentrated his attention on those unfortunates who never made the headlines with their sad and squalid little misadventures. Within this particular genre Dame Rebecca West chose to highlight her own reactions to the backgrounds of the major newsworthy traitors until they became the unreal figures within one of those marathon American novels who neither eat nor shit but exist to subdivide the author's stream of conscious while Bulloch, to his credit, has written in a plain newspaper prose the singular events that led to these unfortunate people standing in their respective docks. What becomes so very obvious, within Bulloch's book, is the contempt of established authority towards those who chose to challenge its might for it imprisoned or cast aside these trapped people as the rascals of the moment dictated and it rode roughshod over its own laws as all good authoritarians should. Fuchs, the atomic spy, drew the legal maximum of fourteen years, and Blake, late of MI6, found that the law is a vicious ass when Lord Parker upped the ante to 42 years by adding consecutive terms of imprisonment on various charges. The Irish, who have filled many a tea room singing the virtues of the rebel, judiciously

# No Responsibility

murdered Robert Childers for continuing to fight for a free Ireland while the British hung Casement and ignored Bailey who landed with him. The State hung Joyce for being number one in the wartime hit parade yet sent Mrs. Eckersley to prison for a single year for broadcasting for the Germans from 1941 on and merely bound her son over, while the mentally adolescent Signalman Colledge drew penal servitude for life.

It is futile to mouth pious indignation over the action of the State in the management of its affairs. We can protest an unnecessary evil, we can plead for mercy, we can ask that the gift of clemency shall not be delayed by some oaf in office, but what we cannot do is to demand that the State shall conform

to the platonic moral absolutes that it demands of us, for the State has only one function and that is to survive. The State has no responsibility to any individual man and should that man's welfare conflict with the safety of the State then he must perish, yet if the need of the State demands that a man must be fed and clothed, then so be it, for it shall be done in the interest of the State.

Tuli Kupferberg and Robert Bashlow, of their faith, have published a 1,001 Ways to Beat the Draft and while in theory each and every suggestion sounds fail-proof one feels that somewhere that Man is cynically rewriting the laws faster than Tuli and Robert can dream up escape clauses. According to Tuli

one can try wetting one's bed, be literally crucified by one's friends, talk with one's anus, tell the psychiatrist that one is a closet queen, offer to send your army pay to the Vietcong, be buried in Joe's tomb, screw niggers, state that you are Jewish and will not fight on Saturdays, wear an SS uniform, arrive at the induction centre with a large red and black flag, a tape recorder playing the anarchist version of the *International* plus a group of comrades shouting 'Fuck the Army' or just disappear. A flippant solution to the problems of organised death? Yet why not. If those who preach hate can sell it through the pages of such children's comics as the *Chicago Tribune Comic Section* and *War Picture Library* why should not Tuli and Bob Bashlow fart in this sanctified slaughterhouse for we are but the impressed cast in the State's sick comedy of errors and if we have our own jokes then let us tell them to while away their tedium.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

'THE WAR IS OVER', directed by Alain Resnais. At the Cameo-Poly.

YVES MONTAND, looking like a middle-aged toad with sex appeal, spends his time commuting between Spanish exile circles in the suburbs of Paris, and a clandestine printery in Madrid. When the film opens he has been travelling all night with a bookshop-owner accomplice, whose wife he fancies, escaping from a new rash of arrests by the Spanish secret police.

He is stopped at the border and questioned—What is your address? Do you remember your telephone number? The point is that he is carrying the passport of an apolitical middle-class Frenchman, with his own photo substituted. They ring the home address, while Carlos-Diego-Domingo (the name varies according to the woman he is getting off with) sweats; fortunately the owner of the passport, a successful civil engineer, is not at home. His daughter, Nadine—her dossier, which Carlos has memorised like a good conspirator, specifies 'born in 1944, first year University student, fluent English and Spanish, appendix operation three years ago'—answers the phone and covers up. Carlos gets over the border, and, with images of a young girl whom he has never seen fitting through his mind, continues north to Paris, to tell the wife of one of his comrades that her husband has fallen into the hands of secret police, and to warn another not to go to Madrid, where certain arrest awaits him.

On arrival in Paris he goes to break the news to the bereaved wife, then unsuccessfully searches for the endangered comrade, and goes on to visit other comrades in the suburbs, where cars are fitted with concealed compartments for smuggling revolutionary literature across the border (the current issue of the *Basque Worker* headlined 'A Great Day', and fomenting the sixth unsuccessful General Strike in the current series). This, the warmest and most comradely scene in the film, is distinguished by the refusal of the contact man to issue orders to the man travelling south to jail to turn back—'Every minute counts!' he says, to which Montand replies bitterly, 'Yes, every minute has counted for the last 25 years'.

On leaving, our hero proceeds to 7, Rue de l'Estrapade, the home of his passport, where he meets and sleeps with the delightfully stupid Nadine, after dialogue along the lines of, 'My family loves Spain'. After the interchange—'You could be my father', Carlos pauses, says seriously, 'Oui, Nadine'; and pounces.

There follows one of the technically

## ONE WAY OF LOOKING AT IT

most brilliant erotic scenes I have ever seen in the cinema. It leans heavily on the love-making scenes in Godard's *Une Femme Mariée*, with fragmented shots of different limbs of the girl's—the man's hand alone is seen—and culminates in a slow panning of the camera, looking from above the position of the girl's head, downwards towards the crutch as her naked thighs slowly part.

The meeting of Carlos (Diego) with his woman (played by Ingrid Thulin) after six months' separation is also beautifully handled; she is the symbol of bourgeois respectability and security towards which he yearns, and at the same time represents a mature and long-experienced eroticism which contrasts sharply with the unadorned, and relatively uninteresting, though because of youth irresistible, love-making of the same afternoon.

In Bergman's film *The Silence* we saw Thulin masturbating, now we see her fucking, and she is equally effective and far from vulgarity in both representations of physical pleasure. She is an actress of great ability and range; her performance throughout is one of the chief virtues of the film.

But it is in the consideration of such scenes that the weakness of the film becomes apparent. Resnais, one of the four or five greatest living directors, is like many great artists politically naive. His earlier films gave some slight indication of this. *Hiroshima Mon Amour* is a wonderful treatment of a complex entanglement between people of entirely different backgrounds in the context of the aftermath of the atomic destruction of the city; the very generality of this theme—the disasters of war—protects the film from criticism. *Muriel* gets a bit closer to the bone, with direct comment on the Algerian war, but again the political content is swamped by the personal madness of the protagonist.

*La Guerre Est Finie*, however, is dealing directly with a political theme—the embitterment of an aging exiled revolutionary as he realises the futility of his own activity, the enormous irrelevance of the antiquated concept of the General Strike to the modern, prosperous, tourists' Spain.

There is a frightening portrayal of the meeting of the exiles' committee to which Carlos reports—three intelligent, but in-

tellectually ossified, men who tell the disillusioned Carlos that he cannot see the wood for the trees—that they, who have not seen Spain in years, know that the mass uprising is just around the corner, and it doesn't matter if a few people go to prison in the meantime (they are, by the way, communists; anarchism gets not even a mention throughout the film).

There is the encounter between Carlos and the group of young 'Leninists' who are concerning themselves with the affairs of Spain. French students, they ridicule the idea of the General Strike, and propose to strike at the basis of Spain's presently increasing prosperity, the tourist trade. How, asks Carlos sarcastically, maybe you're going to turn off the sun? No, they answer, we're going to blow up the tourist trains—with the help of 'Le plastique', which a terrified Carlos has been accidentally entrusted with.

One might think this a well taken point, except for the totally unsympathetic light in which Resnais shows these young fanatics. In fact it is here that Resnais' total confusion becomes clearest. Carlos is shown up as an aging, but very attractive, romantic exile; but the young Stuart Christies are treated as mad. The only thing that emerges clearly is the very banal judgment that violence is nasty; that bygones are bygones; let's all settle down and be nice to each other. Fair enough, in the Spanish situation the left-wing Catholic priests are probably more right about the proper path to change than are the external romantics, still defending Madrid against the fascist hordes. But Resnais' liberal humanist approach, which can best be summarised in the statement 'all extremism is bad' is typical of the kind of ameliorism popular with white liberals in the United States: never will it be conceded that some situations might require extreme solutions—or, in other words, some states can only be cured by revolution.

The political content of a film, or of any work of art, is, however, never sufficient reason for condemning it. One of the uses of the artist is his ability to be out of touch with our common-place 'good sense': to be naive and even silly. The touchstone of greatness in an artist is the adaptation of sometimes misused and often misunderstood material to a universal theme. And when the Spanish civil war has become no more than the romantic legend which Nadine and her comrades admire, and (when they are, like her, in luck) sleep with, it is works of art like this film which, regardless of their inaccuracy, will give it its true human dignity.

SEBASTIAN SCRAGG.

## Anarchist Federation of Britain

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

ANARCHISTS IN LONDON meet at the '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.

### OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson and Mary Camps', 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, new at 15 Savernake Road, London, 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. Day, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.  
ARLESEY GROUP (N. Herts., 5 Beds.). Meetings on first Friday of month. Correspondence to Peter and Maureen Ford, 102 Stotford Road, Arlesey, Beds.  
BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul W. Ditch, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnehorst, Kent.  
BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence: Martin Bragg, 5 The Drive, Hutton 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 Vias, 7 Richmond Drive, Bristol, 1.  
CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike Gowling, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.  
DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, c/o Doctors' Residence, Stracathro Hospital, Brechin, Angus.  
GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 26 Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1.  
HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 12 Shawbridge, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.  
HULL ANARCHIST GROUP. J. Tempest, 29 Fountain Road, Hull. Tel. 212526. Meetings 8 p.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays of month at above address.

IPSWICH ANARCHISTS. Contact Neil Deas, 74 Cemetery Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.  
LEICESTER ANARCHISTS. Correspondence, Peter Gibbon, 13 Severn Street, Leicester.  
LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13. 2nd and 4th Thursdays. October meetings at Mike Male's, 61 Granville Park, Lewisham, S.E.13.  
LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Gerry Bree, 16 Falkner Square, Liverpool, 8.  
Meetings Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at above address. 'Freedom' selling at Pier Head every Sunday.  
NEW HAM LIBERTARIANS. Contact Mick Shenker, 122 Hampton Road, Forest Gate, Notting Hill Provs. Correspondence to Brian Joseph, 1st Floor, 27 Arsenal Gardens, London, W.11. Meeting every first Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. Ground floor flat, 5 Colville House, London, W.11

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

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

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact H. G. Mellor, Merton College, Oxford.

PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Contact J. Hill, 79 Underlane, 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. Burton: Chris Berrisford, 10 Byron Street, Buxton, Cheshire. Alistair Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley, Manchester. Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road, Droylesden, Manchester. Brenda Mercer, 6 Breckside Park, Liverpool, 6. 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

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim Hugdon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex. Meetings first and third Wednesday of the month at Jeanne's, 6 Epson Close, Northolt Park, Middlesex, at 7.30 p.m.  
EALING ANARCHIST GROUP. Get into touch with Adrian Derbyshire, 2 Oakley House, Oakley Avenue, London, W.5.

### PROPOSED GROUPS

KINGSTON ON THAMES AND AREA. Activists especially. Please write only to: Brian P. Boreham, 2 Fullbrooks Cottages, Church Road, Worcester Park, Surrey.

MANCHESTER PROVOS. All interested contact David Stringer and Dave Tugbush, 35 Granton Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, 8.

CAMBRIDGE. Contact Wallyjon Hingworth, c/o Richmond House, Devon Road, Cambridge.

MID-MIDDLESEX. (Harrow, Wembley, Edgware, Hendon.) Anyone interested in forming a libertarian group for discussion and possible action write to Nicolas and Ruth Walter, 4 Vane Close, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex.

SHEFFIELD. Town and gown—anyone interested contact Robin Lovell, c/o Students' Union, University. Tel. 24076.

SOUTH COAST, BRIGHTON, ETC. Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes area contact Alan Albon, The Stable, Glynhelm Farm, Pevensey, Sussex. Phone Hailsham 358.

WATFORD. Anyone interested please contact Alan Pritchard, 8 Bedford Street, Watford, Herts.

### 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.

YANCOOVER, 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-NORTH HAMPSHIRE. Discussion/Action group anyone? Contact Ed Strauss, RFD 2 Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.  
SWEDEN. Stockholm Anarchist Federation. Contact Nadir, Box 19104, Stockholm 19, Sweden.

# POPULAR FRONT WITH POLICE

SEVERAL RECENT articles in FREEDOM have exposed Communist attempts to dominate the movement against the war in Vietnam. It is pleasant to record that on the Youth for Peace in Vietnam March last Sunday the Communists and other bureaucrats did not have things all their own way.

The Friday before, a pre-march meeting was held at Finsbury Town Hall. The posters advertising this meeting originally read: 'Two years of Labour Government—100,000 dead in Vietnam', but, because of the objection of Mrs. Anne Kerr, MP, one of the speakers, the reference to the Labour Government was deleted from the poster. However, at the meeting, Mrs. Kerr was heckled when she spoke of the need to 'give Wilson another two years'.

On Sunday the marchers who formed up in Victoria Park, Bethnal Green, included an anarchist contingent grouped round the Southall, Lewisham, West Ham and Harlow banners. As the march began the Young Communists 'Yankees—out' chanting was met with anarchist shouts of 'All troops in Vietnam—out' and other slogans expressing opposition to the violence of both sides and support for the suffering people of Vietnam.

During the morning the march passed through the East End. As it did so the large crowds who watched us pass made a pleasant contrast to the half-empty streets through which the average West End march passes.

A stop was made for lunch when the march reached the Embankment. At this stage a leaflet was distributed pointing out the futility of continued polite protests and calling for a demonstration at Downing Street.

As the march re-formed and passed down Whitehall comrade Terry Liddle attempted to lead a breakaway across the road to Downing Street. As he did so he was set upon by Mervyn Rice, Chairman of Youth CND, Eddie Adams, London Young Communist organiser and a policeman. Thus it seems that the 'popular front' between YCND and the Communists excludes anarchists but

includes members of the police force.

Also at this stage Eddie Adams repeatedly attempted to push off the march one of the marchers who was shouting slogans against all violence in Vietnam.

After this the march proceeded to Battersea Park where a meeting was held. Although the organisers refused to allow an anarchist speaker, Comrade Gordon Causer spoke on behalf of the Peace Pledge Union. He told his listeners of the need to condemn the militarism of both sides in the Vietnam war and protested against the attack on Comrade Liddle.

The other speakers included a Young Communist Leaguer. When this speaker attempted to justify the violence of the Vietcong many anarchists protested loudly. As they did so they were surrounded by a squad of YCL 'hard men' who threatened to use violence against them.

All in all, the day was fairly worth while. It made it clear that many people within the peace movement are prepared to make a stand for real peace in Vietnam and not only the victory of one side. Mervyn Rice, chief architect of increased collaboration between YCND and the YCL, was revealed as an arrogant bureaucrat who is prepared to aid police attacks on marchers who are not prepared to fit in with his schemes. (Those who wish to take this matter further are recommended to phone Mr. Rice at the YCND office, TER 9254, and discuss this with him.)

By his part in the same incident Eddie Adams revealed that he too evidently feels more in common with the police force than with those marching for peace. Finally, the Communists revealed that, for all their calls for unity, they are not interested in any project they cannot dominate themselves. Also, that if any group is not prepared to submit, they are incapable of reasoned argument and so must fall back upon violence.

R.S.

P.S. The Morning Star did not mention the presence of anarchist groups on the march.

## BRIGHTON INJUSTICE

ERNIE McDONALD is a 52-year-old lorry driver from Birmingham. On Sunday, October 2 he was in Brighton and, with the help of a young man, carrying a banner bearing the legend, 'Birmingham Council for Peace in Vietnam'. These two men inadvertently joined a Trotskyist march and left it to find the CND march they had wanted all along. A policeman was telling them that the CND march was on the seafont when a motor-cycle policeman arrived, along the pavement, and shouted, 'Charge them for obstruction'. The two were bundled into police vehicles, along with their police-broken banner, and were not seen again outside of gaol until October 11, nine days later.

Despite numerous attempts by friends, and the intervention of three Labour MPs, no bail was allowed and the police would not say what charges were being brought. The two men were remanded in custody until the case was heard on October 11 when they were charged with 'Offensive Behaviour Likely to Cause a Breach of the Peace' under the Race Relations Act of 1965. In evidence the police said that the accused had been shouting but could not say what had been shouted. Both men pleaded Not Guilty. The young man was placed on probation and ordered to share three guineas costs with Ernie McDonald. Ernie was fined £20 with a

week to pay.

Two innocent men were held in prison for nine days, a harsh fine imposed, no relatives informed of the arrest, silence from the press who were informed—all for carrying a banner. Please send donations towards fine to Bob Dearden, Secretary, West Midlands Committee of 100, 84 Hurst Green Road, Blackheath, Birmingham.

## Bad News for Stuart Christie

IN A RECENT letter Stuart Christie says: 'My feelings are not of despair but of extreme annoyance and frustration, but I intend to do something about it. Everyone from the Director down thought that I would be granted a pardon.'

In addition to this he has another blow to bear. His grandmother, who virtually brought him up, was terribly upset by the denial of his appeal and, a few days after receiving the news, suffered a coronary thrombosis and is in a serious condition. She is 76.

## 'Mosley a Genius, says Massingham'—Action

TORIES CLAIMED that Timothy Evans report was deliberately released to steal headlines from their Blackpool Conference speech-making. Headline in *Evening News* was 'Evans executed for the wrong murder'. A writer who has made a study of the case wrote in the *Sunday Times* that the theory of Evans having committed the murder of his wife (as Mr. Justice Brabin, in charge of the enquiry, postulates) strain the coincidences beyond probability. *The Times* writer states, 'There is a great body of opinion which apparently finds it impossible to conceive we could ever hang an innocent man'. He quotes Sir David Maxwell Fyfe in 1948 as saying, 'As a realist, I do not believe that the chances of error in a murder case, with these various instruments of the State present, constitute a factor which we must consider. The honourable and learned member is moving in a realm of fantasy when he makes that suggestion.' Nevertheless the Conservative conference declined to pass a resolution asking for the restoration of hanging in the case of policemen and prison officers.

MR. ALFRED HINDS, another victim of injustice, claims in his serialized memoirs that it was the atmosphere of the Challenor case that made it possible for his campaign (including three prison escapes) to end in victory in a libel case against a policeman. This gave Henry Brooke, Home Secretary, occasion to order Hinds' release. But Hinds' legal actions for a free pardon had no success. He claims that legal personalities themselves are guilty of contempt of court, for example in claiming a victory for 'justice' when the law is vindicated and justice is done by accident.

THE CANADIAN DEFENCE MINISTER HAS

denied a report that senior Canadian army officers were involved in a German camp court martial in the Netherlands a few days after the Second World War. The trial, for desertion, resulted in the execution of two German seamen. The Canadian internment camp, it is claimed by a Canadian embassy spokesman in Bonn was for troops who had surrendered, not prisoners of war. The vice-president of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association thinks an investigation of the story (first publicized by *Der Spiegel*) is necessary because the allegations could reflect on Canadian units now based in West Germany under Nato command.

BALDUR VON SCHIRACH, former Hitler Youth Leader, is writing his memoirs in *Stern*. In its own defence the magazine asks the youth of Germany: 'What would they have done if they had lived in Hitler's time? It ill becomes a people, that elected its Hitler to office by a majority of 90 per cent. of the votes—and whose federal president will not deny accusations that he helped to build concentration camps' (a hit at President Lübke) 'to revile the men released'.

A REPORT by Amnesty International issued in Stockholm accuses British military and police personnel in Aden of atrocities against suspected terrorists. The allegations of torture include: forcing suspects to stand naked during interrogation; detaining them in extremely cold cells; forcing them to stay awake for days; offering suspects food then removing it before they could start eating; forcing them to sit in pools of water; hitting and twisting their genital organs; extinguishing cigarettes on their skin; forcing suspects to run in circles until they dropped from exhaustion; banning suspects from visiting the lavatory.

STANLEY HAROLD PATTISON who told the

police he was an anarchist and broke into an Army recruiting office to get the files and make a sensation was placed on probation for three years. He pleaded guilty to breaking into a recruiting office, stealing a combat jacket and maliciously setting fire to the premises.

THE MORNING STAR following its praise of coal for central heating now devotes a glowing page (including its Science Correspondent) in praise of electricity for heating followed by a one-page advert by the Electricity Council in praise of electricity for home heating.

VICTOR ZORZA reports in the *Guardian* that the North Vietnamese Communist Party has gone pro-Chinese; the Italian Communist Party is reported to have openly split on the question; *Blitz* (which modestly describes itself as 'India's Greatest Weekly') is rabidly—and understandably—anti-Mao and calls on intellectuals to 'repudiate Mao's Great Cultural Counter-Revolution!' It lists among intellectuals to call upon, the late William Faulkner. Elsewhere in *Blitz* appears a verse called 'Bottoms Up' 'Give us back the bad old days/When teachers really taught 'em/The three Rs and proper ways/Via cane on bottom'. It is signed 'Scorpio'.

AMERICAN SCIENTISTS have increased underground nuclear tests by 42%, 27 tests in 1966 as compared with 19 in 1965. It is thought probable that President Johnson will further increase his commitments in Vietnam. World food production failed to rise in 1965-1966 but population increased by about 70 million. Lemmings are on their way from the Swedish mountains to the Gulf of Bothnia. It is three years since their last migration.

JON QUIXOTE.

## A MARGINAL CASE

Colin Johnson, the manager of the Factory for Peace, has sent us the following document which we print without comment.

Meeting of the Advisory Council of The Rowen Engineering Co. Ltd. held at 121 George Street, Edinburgh, on September 22, 1966.

Present: Messrs. Jarvie (Chairman), Magee, Sim, Shaw, Reid and Wilkie.

A LETTER was laid before the Committee which was a photostat copy of a letter in the hands of the Bank Manager of the Bank of Scotland, George Square, Glasgow, signed by four members of the Scottish Committee of 100 announcing that that organisation had been wound up. It was also reported by the Secretary that the actions of the Factory Council in relation to the discharge of Mr. Walter Morrison were not in contravention of the Articles of Association.

The Advisory Council therefore decided:—

1. That in face of the evidence that the Scottish Committee of 100 had now been disbanded, it would suspend the representation of this body on the Council and consider a replacement at a future meeting.

2. With regard to the dismissal of Mr. Walter Morrison, the Advisory Council would stress that the Factory General Council has full and final authority here. Nevertheless, because of Mr. Morrison's appeal, the Council had looked into the case and heard Mr. Morrison and Mr. McAlpine and taken legal advice, and it was their opinion that the Articles of Association had not been contravened.

The Advisory Council condemn in the strongest possible terms the public campaign of abuse which has been directed at the Management of the Factory in ways that can only bring greater injury to the Factory.

The Council welcome the appointment of Mr. Colin Johnson as Manager and agreed to offer their good offices to the Factory in any way that could bring about a spirit of reconciliation and promote the purposes for which the Factory was established.

3. The Advisory Council also considered a possible contract from the Ministry of Works for heaters, some of which might be used for the homes of Ser-

vice personnel in the Portsmouth area. This contract might lead to others of a similar nature. In the opinion of the Council, such a transaction would not contravene the Articles of Association and, therefore, the Council had no power of veto.

It is felt, however, although this was admittedly a marginal case, that, in similar cases, due consideration would be given to the sensitivity and feelings of those who subscribed to the peace aims of the Factory.

4. It was decided that the Chairman, Mr. Jarvie, should have power to call a meeting at some future convenient time to deal with the rest of the Agenda.

Next week we hope to print further articles from Colin Johnson and Alan Parker.

## More 8-page FREEDOMS are Planned BUT

## HELP WANTED!

WEEK 41, OCTOBER 15, 1966:  
Expenses: 41 weeks at £80: £3280  
Income: Sales and Subs.: £2356

DEFICIT: £924

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TOTAL: £16 12 6

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\*Denotes Regular Contributor.

## Correction of a Correction

To the Editors of FREEDOM,

I should like to repeat some of the corrections to your article about the demonstration in the Brighton Methodist Church on October 2 and some of the comments on the demonstration itself, which I made in a letter to FREEDOM last week, since they were left out when the letter was re-written as part of another article on the subject.

I did not interrupt George Brown's lesson, but (as correctly reported in the *Guardian* and *Peace News*) waited until he had finished it before saying anything. I said nothing about Vietnam at any time, nor did I just shout 'Hypocrite'. I was charged at 4.30, three hours before the others who were arrested.

Ruth and I are not members of the Vietnam Action Group because, although we support its activities so far, we do not accept its attitude to the Vietnam War. We went to Brighton to protest not against the hypocrisy of the British Government's Vietnam policy in particular but against that of its foreign and economic policies in general. We do not agree with the idea of interrupting—let alone shouting down—people during a religious service, whoever they are and whatever they say, and if we had known

that this was the intention we should have been reluctant to take part. Freedom of speech applies to Wilson and Brown as much as to us.

Harrow NICOLAS WALTER.

## Anti-war Poets: Atten-shun!

Dear Editor,

In 1963 we published *Poetry for Peace*, a collection of anti-war, anti-bomb, peace poems. On that occasion you were kind enough to publish our request for contributions. Can we ask you to do so again, as we are publishing a second collection? (S.a.e. to 'Poetry For Peace', Breakthru Publications, 38 Penn Crescent, Haywards Heath, Sussex.)

With many thanks indeed,  
Yours sincerely,

KEN GEERING.

## Prisoners' Aid

Dear Comrades,

Would it not be possible to issue leaflets for distribution on behalf of Pawlowski regarding harshness of sentence and/or setting up a fund so as he can have a 'free bob' on release.

What do you think?

Yours truly,

Glasgow

ALEX JEFFREY.

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# You can Melt the Freeze

THE PAY FREEZE is starting to melt just a wee bit around the edges. Firstly, British Oxygen, where they are still talking and the workers are still being paid. Secondly ASSET's temporary victory with Thorn Electrical Industries, thirdly the shipbuilding package deal and finally the latest nibble at the freeze, Acrow Engineering Group, although the Government were a bit wary on this one because of the increased productivity. Stewart contented himself by saying that this was 'a special and isolated case'. But he emphasised that the Government would not necessarily take this view again, if similar payments became more common.

Mr. Stewart is attempting to make sure that printworkers accept the freeze, by issuing two orders, one requiring the Newspaper Proprietors Association (NPA) not to pay certain workers more than the July 20 level and the other on Thorn Electrical Industries.

The NPA has started to pay a 2s.-a-week cost-of-living bonus backdated to September 1, due to pressure from the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (SOGAT). Under Section 29 of the Prices and Incomes Act Mr. Stewart must give at least 14 days' notice. In the

meantime he is open to representations from either side. Suffice to say Mr. Stewart is not expected to alter his decisions.

The NPA commented: 'Under the circumstances, if the freeze were to be effective, it seems that the Government had no alternative but to take the steps they have today'.

In other words the NPA have forced a showdown. They certainly were not going to have it with the unions on their own, so they paid, taking the calculated risk that the Government would slap an order on them, thus attempting to shift the fight to the Government and the unions. They can now sit back with the protection of a Labour Government.

This situation will go down in history. The good employers are the ones who won't pay and the bad employers are the ones who will. Some of the old 'printers' devils' must be turning in their graves.

To date it appears that the Government is in for trouble from the printworkers. SOGAT Executive Council at a recent meeting have stated that they are deeply concerned, and believe that agreements and contracts must be honoured. They go on to say that they will seek to continue to protect the interests of their members and state publicly that to do otherwise puts them *ultra vires* their own rules. The EC also states quite clearly that SOGAT has accepted, and continues so to do, the need for change in the circumstances facing Britain at this time but all moves must be, and be seen to be, equitable to working people, employees and professional people.

SOGAT is to seek contact with like-minded unions in order to seek ways and means of raising the standards of the lower-paid workers within the orbit in particular of SOGAT and other unions such as the T&GWU, and the NUGMW. It is also pointed out that approximately 70,000 of SOGAT members are on rates of less than £12 per week.

The picture at the time of writing is that all concerned are sparring for an opening, but sooner or later someone, somewhere, must break. Last Thursday about fifty printworkers met at St. Bride's Institute to discuss the Wage Freeze and the

printing industry. Most of the workers were in the lower-paid income bracket whose wage agreements terminated this month. One of the suggestions was, that SOGAT should ballot its members on the question of continued affiliation to the Labour Party. The opinion being that unions should be free from ALL political parties and government control. It was pointed out that the AEU still had in its rule book as an objective 'workers' control of industry' and in finality this was the only solution. There is to be another meeting of rank-and-file printworkers to discuss next steps. Since the meeting the 'Joint Sites Committee' (building workers) have expressed their solidarity and their willingness for joint action. This is excellent but it must be magnified throughout industry.

The time, if ever there was time, for resolutions and parliamentary lobbies are over, we have seen it in action. Recalling the St. Pancras evictions, the tenants were asked to elect a Labour council and their troubles would be over. They did just that, no joy! The excuse was a Labour council cannot do much whilst a Tory Government is in office. So, the tenants did as they were bid by the Communists, Trotskyists, and Labourites, they returned a Labour Government. Where are they now? Back to minus one. This is not being wise after the event it is the facts of life. Political parties have something to sell, they will give their souls for a vote. Blimey! How many times do we hear that hackneyed phrase: 'They're all the same once they get in'. Give them credit they do prove it by their actions once they are in.

It is reported that Mr. Heath moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Wilson for laying the foundations for Conservative industrial policy which in comparison would mean rabid socialism to the present Labour Government.

Quite frankly there is only one course of action left open, fight by direct action, turn this shower out and see that no other shower gets in, irrespective of their political persuasion. This sounds utopian, melodramatic, crazy, irresponsible, but what other way is there? We know by bitter experience, leaders only know paths up blind alleys, there is no Messiah who knows a different path, history has proved this fact to be the cold hard truth. So what are we left with? US, you and me and the bloke next door, we may feel inadequate, but brother, that's all we have got, and common sense tells us it is more than sufficient.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

The Victorians not only demanded that the public servants that they were forced to come into daily contact with should be well scrubbed and of the Christian faith, but that they should be licensed and publicly numbered. Each porter, hackney carriage employee, policeman, railwayman, and what have you, carried his brass plate with his or her number plainly marked so that any infringement of the middle-class world's code of conduct could be reported by anonymous letter and the offender dealt with. It is an evil habit that has spread and now is accepted as a common practice by men and women working in factories and hospitals; for what began as an amusing American-type gimmick, of wearing one's printed name on one's chest, has now become the accepted and demanded norm in many large labour employing establishments. The viciousness of this licensing practice has recently been highlighted by the following notice issued to all Branch Secretaries and Representatives of the Central Bus Section and I quote it in full:

**PLEASE PLACE THIS NOTICE IN THE UNION NOTICE CASE**

Dear Sir and Brother,  
PSV LICENCES

I am instructed by the Central Bus Committee to bring to your attention the increase in the number of Drivers and Conductors who have received Police

## YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR JOBS!

Court Convictions arising from assaults on AND OFF duty, and who subsequently have had their PSV licences withdrawn by the Commissioner of Police.

Upon the withdrawal of a PSV licence by the Commissioner of Police, members CANNOT CONTINUE TO BE EMPLOYED AS CONDUCTORS OR DRIVERS, which must result in the termination of their employment with London Transport, if other suitable work is not offered by London Transport.

I must emphasise that a period of time (often months) will elapse before the Commissioner of Police will give consideration to a notice of appeal by a Conductor or Driver who has had his or her licence revoked.

Yours fraternally,  
C. A. YOUNG,  
London District Secretary,  
Central Buses—CAY/MER.

The viciousness of this legal weapon lies in the phrase that I have drawn attention to namely OFF DUTY. For this means that not only could a man lose his livelihood for brawling with his

# Freedom For Workers' Control

OCTOBER 22 1966 Vol 27 No 33

## Mismanagement and Disunity

SOME critics of workers' control have based their objections on a false premise that workers would not be capable of running the factories they now work in. In answer to these criticisms one can give historical examples and, as well as doing this, one might also examine how, in fact, some companies are managed under the present system.

Outside a principled objection to the system of managerial control of the few over the many, the lack of foresight in planning and the inefficient market forecasting on the part of the British Motor Corporation is such as to question their ability to manage. One can say that BMC played a hunch, did not make cuts in production and the gamble did not pay off. But surely, as the largest manufacturer of cars in this country, judgements should not be based on a gamble.

It has taken a number of weeks for the true facts of the BMC situation to be made known. The very suddenness of the first announcements of redundancies made many suspicious. These were followed by a further announcement of redundancies and now we are told even with 12,000 men sacked, there will still have to be short-time working and that BMC do not expect to re-engage any men 'at least for next year'.

This is surely an admission of bad management if ever there was one. Now Sir George Harriman, Chairman of BMC, says that there will be short-time working when only four weeks ago he said that this form of working would be inefficient. Whatever BMC was gambling on, it certainly was a long shot. They can blame the July squeeze, but long before this the indication was that car sales would not go far above the already depressed 1965-66 figures. BMC based their production on a 10% rise on this, while other companies estimated for little or no improvement.

BMC are known for being optimistic with their estimates, but on July 7 they were still in this mood and announced plans to raise production of the 1100

model. These plans were very soon cancelled. It was not until just before the TUC conference that BMC realised the seriousness of the position and that it was unable to build up stocks of new models as had been done by some of its rivals. There is no doubt about the seriousness of the position that the management have placed the company in. In fact, even though they are the largest British-controlled motor company, they could very easily be taken over by one of the bigger American corporations.

### THE UNIONS

If the effects of the squeeze were not bad enough, workers at BMC are also victims of bad management. Twelve thousand are to be sacked next month, unless some action can be taken to defeat the plans of the Government and BMC. Mr. Jack Jones, executive officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union has warned BMC that they can expect 'industrial trouble' if they go ahead with the sackings.

At York, last Friday, the unions with membership involved, came to the end of the constitutional road of the engineering disputes procedure with a 'failure to agree' and now the next move is up to the unions. Even when faced with a number of sackings of this magnitude, the union executives are unable to agree amongst themselves. Instead of facing a common threat on behalf of their membership, rivalries, bitterness and censure motions are the order of the day.

This is only to be expected from the union set-up in the industry. They all have their vested interests and are out to defend or extend them where possible. The National Union of Vehicle Builders, being a very small union, would stand to lose from 40% to 50% of its members if the sackings are carried out. With so much at stake their District Secretary, Mr. Evans, has said: 'A strike is on the cards. . . . We have to continue to fight to keep as many of our members in jobs as possible.' He is obviously afraid he will soon be back on the tools.

A reduction of membership on this scale in the NUVB would strengthen the hand of the Amalgamated Engineering Union in their bid to take over this union. On the other hand, the Electrical Trades Union is complaining because the other three unions have met the Minister of Labour, without their being included.

An approach has been made to Mr. Wilson to meet all the unions involved in the car industry, but so far their letter of request has only met with an acknowledgment. The meeting between the car workers and Mr. Wilson in Brighton was an astute move to allay their fears, but achieved nothing other than demonstrating that the workers are concerned about their jobs.

If there is to be any effective opposition to the sackings, there will have to be far more unity than has been shown by the union executives for while their interests are mixed, the rank and file are threatened by the sack. There is also the added threat to the union organisation in the factories. It will need all the strength of the present organisation to defeat the sackings, but while BMC are sacking men who are working on the majority of their models, their sports car production is being extended. Industrial action can defeat the BMC plans, if it is extensive.

P.T.

## Contact Column

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

**Couloport.** Lost from Aberdeen bus a two-tone sleeping-bag with waterproof base. Could finder please return. Carriage will be paid. Please send to R. Comrie, 288 Hardgate, Aberdeen.

**'Heatwave'.** No. 2 now out available from Freedom Press. 1/9 post free.

**Employment Wanted.** Girl (19) seeks employment, anything considered. Please write to Pam Hillier, 216 Wentworth Road, Southall, Middlesex.

**March.** Harlow and Bishop's Stortford YCND, October 29. Details from Jean Rogers, Kingsdon Hall, Kingsdon Lane, Potter Street, Harlow.

**Accommodation.** Twenty-year-old girl with five-month-old baby wants accommodation (with or without work) where she could take care of baby. Box 41.

**Caravan Site Wanted.** International Gypsy Movement workers with caravan seek accommodation. North London return rent/part-time work, babysitting, garden. Knockholt (Kent) 2316.

**Accommodation.** Young couple (with two small sons) urgently need 3-room s.c. flat at reasonable rent. Willing to decorate, baby mind, help in house, garden, etc. Box 42.

**Accommodation Wanted.** Painter/Anarchist wants cheap room/attic in Fulham or near. F. A. Gresty, Punchbowl, Manchester Road, Buxton, Derbys.

**Situation and Accommodation Wanted.** Young man, returning from Brazil, needs cheap accommodation and job. Anything considered. Istvan Levy, c/o Freedom Press.

**Ex-Summerhill.** Young man requires unfurnished flat in West London. Not more than £6 per week. Phone FUL 3086 after 6 p.m.

**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.

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

If you wish to make contact let us know.