

Mutual Aid - the 7.49

THOUGH MOST of the items in the daily press manage to be both silly and boring, there is occasionally a front-page story which make capitalist and anarchist united brothers. This is the story where a small, brave group, or even, as was recently the case, one man, wage implacable war on the arrogant forces of authority. To the newsmen, the David v. Goliath theme will keep the circulation in a healthy state. Besides, it is the only 'Us' v. 'Them' story likely to drag the goggle-box watchers away from coppers and cowboys. It is amazing how people will want one side or another to 'win' on TV but, when it comes to winning something worthwhile in their own society, their persons seem to take on a mysterious adhesiveness in relation to the armchair.

But there are some people, though capitalist to the core, who have been forking out for ages now. Their money has been grabbed by the State with not so much as a by-your-leave, and accordingly mis-spent. These people feel it is time to assert their authority and remind us of how little freedom we really have. Earlier this month, nine men and a woman, in militant mood, defied all the coaxing and implied threats of British Railways officialdom. British Railways wanted the 7.49 from Blackfriars to Sevenoaks to pass through Shoreham, Kent, they claimed that the station was seldom used after 8 p.m. Ten Shoreham residents challenged this assumption. Before leaving Blackfriars they told railway police that if the train did not stop at their station, they would be collectively responsible for pulling the communication cord. This, a railway official never tired of telling them, was a very dangerous thing to do. British Railways no doubt felt that this was their best line of attack, since the rest of their case looked very weak before people who had suffered British Railways' apologies and gibberish down the years. As the train made its way into the heart of Kent, one of BR's higher-up lackeys pitted his wits against ten people. He tried to bluff them into giving up their plan. But his subtle brainwashing attempt fell on stoney ground; the best he could do was not good enough. The Shoreham passengers never had to go to the lengths they intended, because they won the argument. The official, conceding defeat, instructed the driver to stop the train at Shoreham. British Railways it seems have more than met their match, since the top people are retiring for 'talks', or more likely to

lick their wounds. The advertising executive who planned the coup told a reporter that the object of the exercise was to draw attention to bad planning on the railways. But any administration which can tolerate tired minds like Robertson and Beeching to run its affairs, is sure to suffer from chronic dry rot for ever afterwards.

In Chiswick though, it was a case of direct action but no mutual aid. The direct action was all the effort of one man, who on finding people uncooperative dreamed-up something he called the Hounslow Borough Ratepayers' Council. George Kirby kept his hoax going for a year. He invented meetings at which resolutions calling for action were passed, and a lot more besides which was frankly eyewash. He had councillors taking this non-existent organisation seriously. So seriously, in fact, that more than one councillor had begun to think that the 'ratepayers' council' would put up a candidate at the next election, solely for the purpose of reducing the inflated local rates. Most people were quite happy to leave the work to George Kirby. He soon found himself flooded with a vast 'fan-mail'. People seemed quite happy to have found, as they seemed to believe, an individual to champion their cause, so long as they merely wrote into him about their grievances and general negligence by the council.

The people of Shoreham have put an anarchist idea into practice and have seen for themselves that it brings results. But far too often these same groups of people, who have won a small battle on behalf of their fellow-men, allow the council to regain its equilibrium. Rates are only the beginning usually, since there are fewer things local and national bodies do these days, while asking for more money all the time. Money people could use with far better advantage building the society they really want instead of allowing the State advertisers to seduce them, and in turn wage a futile war on the nearby Jones family. In fact officialdom can wilt surprisingly easily, as stubborn and clever anarchists have found out before now. The majority of British people will have to realize that making asses of moneyed reactionaries should be more than a joke indulgence when the need arises. It should become a method which eventually grows into an autonomous society which rejects self-appointed power seekers.

RON PEARL.

RAF EDZELL RAIDED

THE US Polaris fleet communications centre goes under the euphemism 'RAF Edzell'. There are about 300 US Navy personnel stationed there permanently in a specially built village tacked on to the base. Nine members of Aberdeen Anarchists and YCND made the 40-mile trip south on November 5 and carried out saturation leafletting with the WRI leaflet. Entry, even to the village, is forbidden, but we were unmolested although continuously followed round by RAF and USN staff in cars. After leafletting each house we began to put leaflets in cars, milk-boxes and even to post them through open windows. We then knocked on doors and tried to engage the servicemen in conversation but the reply was always, 'No, we're not allowed to talk about that' or 'No, I don't care'. A woman tried to slap a leafletter but generally the reception was one of indifference or humorous cynicism. On the way back we stopped at the base proper and the main gates were slammed shut on us. There we got

two British civilian personnel into conversation, explaining our position on Vietnam, the East-West confrontation, Hungary, etc. They seemed to be worried and moved by some of what we said although their final word was that although they'd no idea what the place was, or what they were doing, they would continue to work there nevertheless. We left threatening huge demonstrations the following weekend. The general feeling among us was one of elation—nothing like this has happened at Edzell before and it is bound to have an effect of some kind—although, for myself at any rate, it was mingled with one of anti-climax.

I.R.M.

ANARCHY 69 is about ECOLOGY

MONTHLY 2s.

Super Market for Whom?

IT IS A customary ploy by politicians to throw a new concept at a public deeply worried about some real policy danger of the moment. Is it too cynical for an anarchist to assume that the recent agitation started by Mr. Harold Wilson for Britain to enter the European 'Common Market' is no more than a device to divert our attention from such mundane things as the increasing unemployment, the wage freeze, devaluation, loss of real earnings at home, and Rhodesia, Aden and Vietnam abroad.

A concomitant of this is that political commentators, even of this paper alas, will have to make up their minds whether they are for or against the policy of Britain entering the Common Market. What wasted research, what hours of enforced boredom should this plan be a non-starter! How much one admires earlier editors of FREEDOM who would eat through a mountain of spaghetti undaunted and emerge on the other side still hungry for more!

What has the Common Market got to do with anarchism? Clearly very

little. What the signatories to the Treaty of Rome wanted was a super-corporate state, a complete social, political and economic amalgamation, with a presidency not elected but appointed by existing governments, and with a pooling of scientific, economic and other services including police, and this last is the first to function properly. This is hardly a federation of autonomous regions who would need a minimum of international trading, but rather a vast supermarket based on over-production, advertising and of benefit mainly to big monopolies like ICI and its French, German, Italian counterparts.

Some people will of course argue that although we are anarchist we cannot escape being part and parcel of the system and if we cannot have 'anarchy' then we might as well acquiesce and choose the lesser evil. They will further argue that as Britain has no colonies now to speak of except the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar and Aden and that the Commonwealth is a myth with only New Zealand and some African countries needing special safeguards

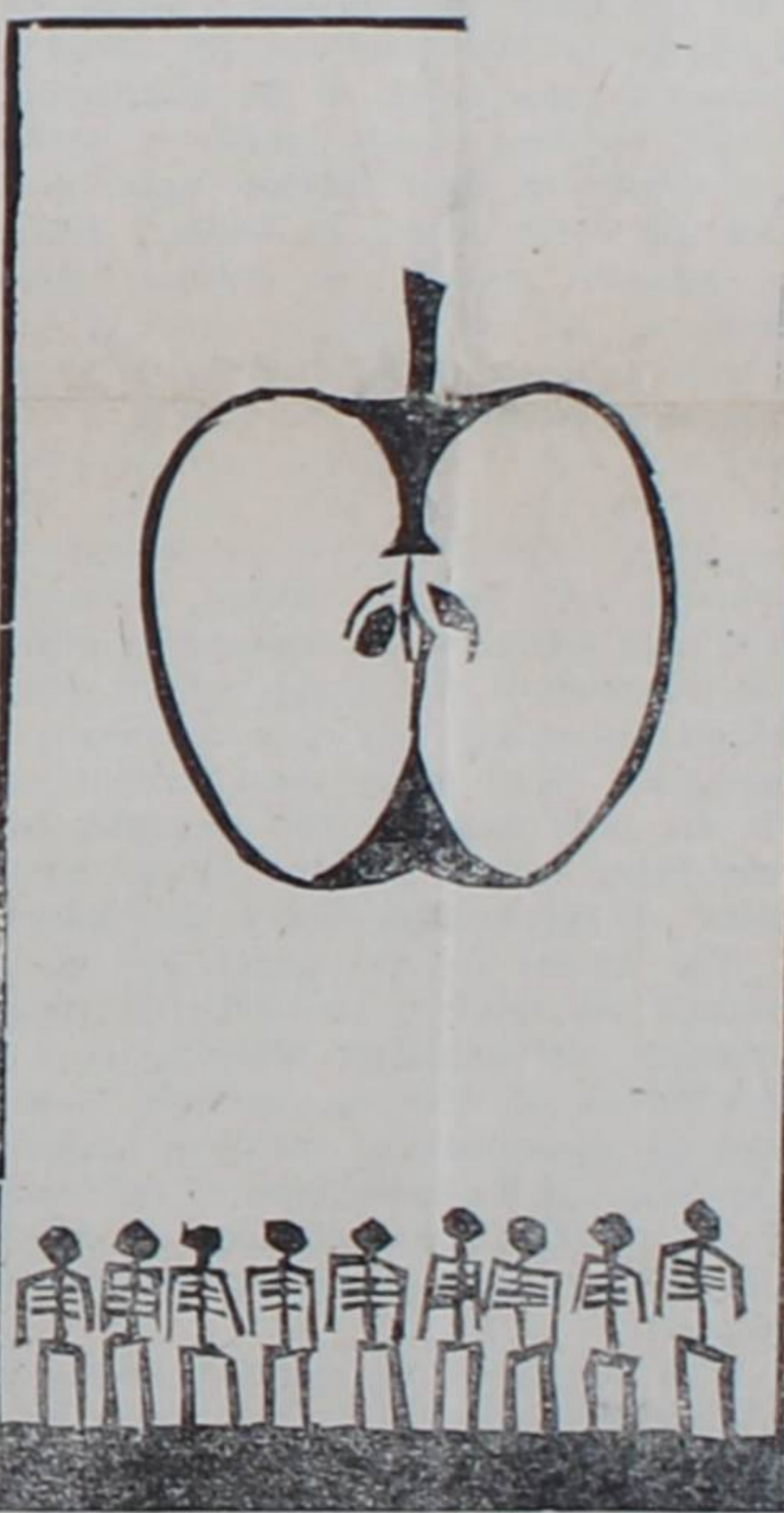
we may as well enter the Common Market which will benefit our superior manufacturing industries and our incomparable banking and insurance facilities.

But perhaps these people will tell us if they know (and we doubt that they do), which of our industries will benefit and which will go to the wall? And, if our food prices go up, how will they keep up 'real wages'? And how can they do all this without devaluation, that they protest 'must be resisted at all costs'? We are asking these questions out of sheer impudence, as anarchists are usually accused of advocating solutions without worrying about their consequences.

At the same time they may also tell us what is wrong with our solution, now that Britain is just a small off-shore island, of producing only for need and not for trade, a system based on self-sufficiency not on wasteful competition, of using this small island's resources not just to benefit the 1% who own 99% of the country's wealth, but for the benefit of the whole population.

R.

140 Million Extra Hands



If the extra members of the human race all had the sense to be born in the more prosperous sections of the world this would be no problem, but since a majority of the human race is born to poverty this is the cue for all the 'dogooders' (including Unesco and WHO) to urge upon the greater breeders various methods of contraception, pills, loops and coils. More than this, compulsory sterilization is recommended as a cure for this curse of population.

Nobody has suggested this for the Kennedys, indeed, as Catholics, even birth control, by the more blatant methods is frowned upon. Neither has birth control been strenuously advocated to solve America's problem of poverty.

Malthus in fact, does ride again and technology has succeeded in providing methods whereby the State may decree who may be fruitful and multiply and who may not. This is all justified and accepted in the name of preventing world poverty.

Malthus' *Essay on Population* put forward the proposition that population increases in geometrical progression, and sustenance only increases arithmetically. Godwin always subscribed to the view of 'faith in the faculties of man to strike out remedies yet unknown'. The God of the Rev. Malthus who made the blight that struck the Irish potato also made the rubber plant. The scientific knowledge that gave us penicillin is part of the same process that gave us the pill. (It also gave us the bomb which may be the reverend gentleman's checks and balances operating on a grand scale!)

The proposition that it is only the backward races of the earth that increase and multiply should sow suspicion in our minds that this doctrine of over-population is only another shuffling off of the 'white man's burden', and as the Rev. Malthus thought that the poor should be kept down, so the neo-Malthusians think that the lumpenproletariat of the earth should restrain or be restrained from breeding.

NO BUSINESS PROPOSITION

We are assured by statesmen and politicians—who frequently send rockets to the moon, and fully victualled and outfitted troops to all quarters of the earth—that it is not possible to feed the starving millions of Africa and Asia. Even if it were a business proposition for Fortes and Joseph Lyons to supply

packed lunches to them for cash it could and would be done. (Whether they would still suffer from malnutrition afterwards is another story.) But... we are told food is short, there is jungle and there is desert. There are bad years for the crops and people just starve.

Talk of famine is a question of priorities. When there was an earthquake in Turkey every nation rushed to its aid, governmental agencies as well as private organizations. Why? Because Turkey occupies an important strategic position and her welfare is necessary to political stability in the Near East.

We are told of deserts, yet when oil companies were prospecting in the Sahara they needed water so they drilled for it and discovered that under the Sahara there is a vast reservoir of water. Israel was similarly regarded as unable to be cultivated by the Arabs who, being a nomadic people (and their rulers being mainly interested in oil) were not interested in cultivation. The Israelis by a thoroughly uneconomic application of labour and irrigation have made the desert blossom as the rose.

MAD ENGLISHMAN

The Englishman abroad is frequently regarded as mad and a specimen turned up in Kenya who had a mania for planting trees. He is still planting trees, now in the Sahara. This may be thought to be part of the English passion for landscape gardening but Richard St. Barbe Baker (whose latest book *Sahara Conquest*, Lutterworth, 8/6, is just out) has a method in his madness about trees. He claims, with justification, that to reclaim the barren areas of the world all that is necessary is the patient cultivation of trees which will act as a collector of water for the soil and will prevent the top soil from drifting away. We are in fact all living on about two inches of top soil which can soon be lost for 'only man can make a desert'.

Richard St. Barbe Baker is not the only sane madman. In the *Observer* (16.10.66) a report of a conference on factory farming run by the West of England Campaign Against Factory Farming stated that 'intensive factory farming, as practised in advanced countries is quite irrelevant to the world's food problems'. Dr. E. S. Schumacher, Economic Adviser to the National Coal

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Sex Without Affection

QUIET DAYS IN CLICHY, by Henry Miller. Published by Calder & Boyars. 24/-.

THIS BOOK, *Quiet Days in Clichy*, is two long short stories about Henry Miller's life in the French Capital before the Second World War. They have never before been published in England. This is vintage Miller with a vengeance. Miller can write really magnificently—at times, this language would be a poorer thing without him, but there are indeed a lot of butts. He writes about sex, that is an understatement if ever there was one, but he never writes about it with affection, it never seems to have dawned on him that sex is a means not an end. Yet he can write about a number of things with genuine affection, food, the Jewish quarter of Paris, Greece, the Midi, and the Latin world as a whole. He can describe a meal, a wine, a street and even a man better than he can describe making love. In fact in his writing making love cannot fairly be called making love, it comes nearer to making Miller.

Women never come to life in his work, they simply go to bed or do it in a taxi. To compare the women in Balzac or Hardy to the women in Miller is to compare Sarah Bernhardt with a starlet in a 'B' feature. Yet it is useless to dismiss Miller as a mere pornographer, it just won't wash.

Yet one can't get away from the feeling that Miller might easily write on lavatory walls, but one, equally, has no difficulty in remembering that that is not the only place he writes or the only things he writes about. While one is reading these

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Board, who made the statement said that productivity per acre of agricultural land was lower in the United States than in Britain and in Britain it was lower than in the United Arab Republic. In fact in the countries where food was short they had the labour-power; given the aid in improving water supplies, facilities for grain storage, provision of fencing and help with farming methods they could feed themselves and probably provide a surplus. Every extra mouth to feed meant two extra hands to harvest and, whilst one does not wish to go on the record as being in favour of child labour, the assistance of children in the family or communal agricultural occupations has its educational advantages.

Thomas More in his *Utopia* spoke of 'sheep eating up men', a reference to the replacement of arable land by pastures and consequently the erosion of the soil by the cloven hoof of the sheep. Richard St. Barbe Baker has pointed out that the same thing is happening today, and advocates a concentration upon the raising of crops rather than the rearing of cattle. This may seem like the thick end of the vegetarian wedge but one can truthfully point out that the majority of the world's population is, by compulsion, vegetarian the major part of its life. Meat-eating is a wasteful method of food-consumption particularly in what would seem to be a starving world.

WASTE OF WASTE
In fact, the keynote to much of what goes on in the world today is 'waste'. The waste of brains, the waste of labour, the waste of food, the waste in fact of waste.

The well-known waste of militarism is too old a theme to be harped on here

stories one can actually see and smell and hear Paris, and these sights and smells and sounds come back to invade one's senses long after one has put the book down.

Miller may, just possibly, not indeed be a real artist, but he MOST certainly has a generous share of true art in him, of that there can be no doubt at all. He may not have written a masterpiece, although *Tropic of Cancer* comes very close to being one, but he is the master of a number of pieces of first-rate writing, particularly of an account of trying to get into England without any money entitled 'Newhaven-Dieppe, aller et retour'. He is certainly the most important writer in English (the French have more

Yevtushenko—Rebel

THE POETRY OF YEVGENY YEVTUSHENKO 1953-1965. Published by Calder & Boyars. 42/-.

THIS COLLECTION may help to destroy a current myth, for it fails to substantiate the much-vaunted claims that Yevgeny Yevtushenko's work is of vital international significance and that he himself is an important artistic, social and political revolutionary. On the basis of this book, Yevtushenko is revealed as a readable, enjoyable but minor poet with a powerful, but essentially limited, line in liberal, humanitarian dissent. An Establishment rebel?

Yevtushenko does not fit into the contemporary *avant-garde* tradition of poet as shaman, prophet, priest, guru. That is, the essence of his published work does not courageously pioneer new frontiers of style and thought but continues to explore, and exploit, gradual changes within older, safer territories of content and form; does not create but reflects. His restricted revolutionary insight and lack of wide visionary scope

interesting ones, Blaise Chindres and Jean Genet) to come out of what the squares would call Gutter Bohemianism, of which the Beatnik movement is the current example. Like them, Miller is a rebel not a revolutionary. Yet in his love of food, wine, travel and architecture he reminds one of a working-class Cyril Connolly.

It is ultimately more harmful to a writer's reputation to be overpraised than it is to be ignored. Apollinaire is the classic example of this sad fate. Some critics, among them Lawrence Durrell, have said that Miller is the equal of Whitman and Blake. That is rather like saying that Wilson is the equal of Gladstone. PAUL POTTS.

strongly contradict such pretensions. Neither is he gifted with a penetrating mental clarity; nor has he attained the deep wisdom and certainty of direction, essential for that most exacting role, but still valuable, function as public confessor and social conscience; his work mirroring the doubts and aspirations of an articulate, thinking Russian minority but seldom transcending its limitations.

He has achieved international status via his reputation as a popular idol and national spokesman, yet most ultimately be judged solely on the creative beauty of his poetry and the wider validity of its message.

Yevtushenko's poems, even the slightest, are refreshingly honest and never obscure or fake; always speaking freely and truthfully, 'There's nobody I envy / nothing that I fear'. Each poem strives to capture his feelings, thoughts, ideas, condition at the moment of creativity. Their most endearing quality, a genuine warmth, tenderness, urgent con-

140 Million

but the supposition that if the money were not spent on hardware it would be available to buy food for the starving masses is too naive to be considered. States, by their nature, prefer to spend the labour of their subjects upon projects of world power, of military glory, of national security, of political independence, all expressed in terms of the amassing of weapons of destruction, recruitment of personnel to service those weapons and recruitment of personnel to serve the men who service the weapons. This horde and its dependants must in turn be fed, clothed, sheltered and kept warm by the community albeit the function of this section of the community is wholly that of a consumer, a parasite. 'Man' it has been pointed out 'is the only creature who measures his well-being by the number of his parasites'. If this be true, man is rich indeed.

The brains of the world are being wasted on military research, on space research, on consumer research, on the production of 'illth' in manifold forms, but the production of sufficient nourishing food for the population of the world is a problem the solution of which would seem to be easily attainable given the will.

The labour of the world is wasted in the multiplication of 'wants', rather than the filling of the 'needs' of the world. Food, clothing and shelter are the minimum needs of all. How many of the world's population can claim satisfaction in all these requirements?

The food of the world is wasted by adulteration, by centralization of distribution which necessitates packaging, freezing and canning. Gluts of market-

able crops are a disaster in an agriculture geared to the price-structure. Over-specialization in the production of cash crops leads to the impoverishment of the soil and impoverishment of the peasantry who are turned into mere labourers in factories in the field.

NIGHTMARE OF MEGALOPOLIS
The soil of the world is wasted by under-utilization and wrongful utilization. The lack of balance between town and country has created the urban sprawls and the nightmare of Megalopolis. The motor-car, which should have been a liberating convenience, has, like so many machines, become a demanding Moloch to which lives, health and urban amenities must periodically be sacrificed. The motorways slash and scar what was once the land whereby we could live.

The forests have been cut down to provide the very paper on which these words have been written. The landscape has been despoiled in many areas by those huge dumps of industrial excreta, one of which tumbled upon Aberfan, recently. Proposals are made from time to time to halt the deforestation or to beautify and make safe the dumps but very little happens since man is more concerned with consuming than he is with producing, and his mounds of waste are monuments to his prosperity. Conservation is for peasants!

A return to a decentralized society is necessary along with the ending of a market-economy to ensure the production of ample nourishing food to feed those 70 million extra mouths. In this the 140 million extra hands which accompany the mouths can play their part.

JACK ROBINSON.

REVIEWS

viction and hopeful despair, 'shall we never / understand each other.' A persistently self-obsessive tendency is cleverly turned into a workable vehicle, 'I'm weary of running from myself', which overcomes irritation and other communication barriers.

Artistically, Yevtushenko is improving and developing an effective lyrical style. If he continues to publicly 'laugh at the arrogance of blown-up reputations' he will fully justify his own reputation as a poetic champion of dignity and basic human rights but he is presently no more, or less, than that.

Blackburn, Lancs. DAVE CUNLIFFE.

Generals Die in Play

THE GENERALS' TEA PARTY. Jeanette Cochrane Theatre.

THERE WAS SOMETHING curiously appropriate and anachronistic about seeing an anti-war play on November 11. To be quite truthful the military men are too easy a target but it was fun to see them all knocked down again by Boris Vian.

The production is a gloriously knock-about farce and is, I suppose, what is called a 'satire' but, once having installed the machinery with the Americans, Chinese and Russians advising the French how to start up a war, it is difficult to stop it and the author could only end the play by a game of Russian roulette. This is, in a way, a tribute to the construction of the play which carries itself along.

The author was a satrap of the College de Pataphysique and during his varied career he translated the memoirs of General Omar Bradley. This must have inspired him in this savage attack upon generals and upon the whole institution of militarism. The dialogue is witty and scandalous and must owe a great deal to the translation of Simon Watson-Taylor.

The Jeanette Cochrane Theatre and the London Traverse Theatre Co. is a theatre to watch. Their last production *Loot* was excellent and has now transferred to the Criterion. They make a welcome addition to a growing list of London's worthwhile theatres. J.R.

Anarchist Youth Conference

WE RECEIVED the following circular letter: The next conference of *Jeunesse Européenne* will be held on December 24-26, 1966, in Milan. This is supported by comrades and groups from the following localities: Milan, Turin, Brescia, Vicenza, Valenza, Savona, Genoa, Iglesias and Paris. No other groups or comrades have responded, either to confirm or to refuse. We nevertheless have judged it legitimate to consider the proposal accepted, and we think it right to proceed with all speed with the necessary preparations. We ask your co-operation in sending us your items for the agenda, letting us know if you are coming (and how many of you) and whether you will need accommodation.

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Anarchist Federation of Britain

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

ANARCHIST MEETINGS AT HYDE PARK EVERY SUNDAY AT 2 P.M.

OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of each month at Jack Robinson and Mary Canipa's, 21 Rumbold Road, S.W.6 (off King's Road), 8 p.m.
3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald and Irene Room's, now at 13 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. Dey, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.
BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent.
BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Dave Massey, 138 Church Road, Erdington, Birmingham, 24.
UNIVERSITY OF ASTON GROUP. Contact: D. J. Austin, 5 Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham.
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.
HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to

Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.
HULL ANARCHIST GROUP. J. Tempest, 89 Fountain Road, Hull, Tel. 212526. Meetings 8 p.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays of month at above address.
IPSWICH ANARCHISTS. Contact Neil Dean, 74 Cemetery Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.
LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13. 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Meetings at Mike Malet's, 61 Granville Park, Lewisham, S.E.13.

NEW HAM LIBERTARIANS. Contact Mick Shenker, 122 Hampton Road, Forest Gate.
NOTTING HILL ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Brian Joseph, 1st floor, 27 Arundel Gardens, London, W.11. Meeting every first Thursday of the month at 8 p.m., Flat 3, Colville Houses, 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, Plymouth, Plymouth, Devon.

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.
SHEFFIELD. Regular meetings for discussion at the Foresters, Division Street, Mondays. Contact Robin Lovell, c/o Students' Union, University, Sheffield, Tel. 24076.

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NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

Regional Secretary: J. Bromley, 44 Doncaster Avenue, Manchester, 20. Buxton: 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 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.
EALING ANARCHIST GROUP. Get into touch with Adrian Derbyshire, 2 Oakley House, Oakley Avenue, London, W.5.
LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION. Meetings—discussions—activities. Contact Peter Ford, 82 North Road, Highgate, N.6. (Tel.: MOU 5702.)

PROPOSED GROUPS

SOUTH-WEST MIDDLESEX. P. J. Goody, 36 Norman Avenue, Hanworth, Middlesex.
KINGSTON ON THAMES AND AREA. Activists especially. Please write only to: Brian P. Boreham, 2 Follbrooks Cottages, Church Road, Worcester Park, Surrey.

MANCHESTER PROVOS. All interested contact David Stringer and Dave Tugbth, 35 Granton Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, 8.
CAMBRIDGE. Contact Wallyjon Illingworth, 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.
SOUTH COAST, BRIGHTON, ETC. Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes area contact Alan Albon. The Stable, Glynleigh Farm, Pevensey, Sussex. Phone Hailsham 358.
WATFORD. Anyone interested please contact Alan Pritchard, 8 Bedford Street, Watford, Herts.
MEDWAY TOWNS AREA. Proposed Group. Errol Davies, 22 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester, Kent.

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 Ed Strauss, RFD 2 Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.
SWEDEN. Stockholm Anarchist Federation. Contact Nadir, Box 19104, Stockholm 19, Sweden.
CANADA: Winnipeg. Anybody interested in Direct action/anarchy contact G. J. Nasir, 606 Matheson Avenue, Winnipeg, 17, Manitoba.
BELGIUM: LIEGE. Provos, c/o Jacques Charlier, 11 Avenue de la Laiterie, Sclessin-Liege, Belgium.

'Cuban Dancers Look for Jobs' (They defected!)

STUDENTS for a democratic society have been working all summer on the creation of a Free University in Milwaukee.

The University is being established to create an atmosphere in which a democratic exchange of ideas is possible and the individual can participate in a personal learning experience. This atmosphere does not exist in the present multi-university system. Competition for grades, large impersonal classes, emphasis on 'getting a degree' rather than an education, authoritarian relationships between administration, faculty, and students—all these have contributed to an unsatisfactory situation in the modern university.

Today's university has become isolated from and insulated against the American community. Communications have broken down between students and faculty, faculty and administration. Today's scholar has become more isolated from scholars of differing disciplines.

The Free University will provide new definitions for the concepts of student and teacher. A student will be one who seeks knowledge, a teacher one who has

knowledge to share. The relation between them will be that of the dialogue. Structural decisions will be made jointly by students and teachers. A forum for interdisciplinary exchange will be created. The Free University of Milwaukee will be a perpetual experiment, constantly seeking to re-evaluate and re-define its framework.

Courses include: Community organization as a form of social change; anarchism and *avant-garde* literature; American sexual values and conduct; Marxism as a social science; The Constitution—myth and reality; Vietnam.

The course on Anarchism and *avant-garde* literature is given by Barbara and Morgan Gibson (2703 N. Maryland, Milwaukee, Wisconsin).

While on the subject of free schools and universities we have been informed that Collaberg School (Thiells Road, Stony Point, NY) which was an experimental free school has been burnt down. It is planned to rebuild it. The building operation is to be part of the educational process and, to do this, they need money, equipment, books and workers. If you can help in any way get in touch.

THERE WAS A SWING towards moderation in the US elections with Republicans in the ascendancy. It may mean a little less napalm (say about a ton) in Vietnam, a little modified torture for captives and moderate discrimination against negroes.

THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS coincided with a major battle in Vietnam with 127 American dead, 605 wounded and eight captured or missing; NLF losses were 893 dead, 199 captured. American losses the previous week were 66 dead. There were rumours of a Christmas bombing truce which would give a chance for peace. Mr. Calwell, the Australian opposition leader, promised that if a Labour government were elected it would immediately in consultation with the United States withdraw all conscripts from Vietnam. Labour, he said, would abolish conscription and discharge all conscripts now in army camps in Australia. The election is on November 26.

AFTER THREE MONTHS without a government, the Republic of San Marino now has one. The extreme right-wing National Democratic Party won for the first time eight seats in the Hesse State Parliament of the German Federal Republic. The Minister-President of Baden-Württemberg Kurt-Georg Kiesinger has been proposed as leader of the ruling Christian Democratic Party. Herr Kiesinger was a member of the Nazi party in 1933, but says he became an opponent one year later after the Röhm plot. He claims he was 'forced to work in the Foreign Ministry in 1940'. He claims that he was denounced by two foreign office colleagues as an anti-Nazi and an opponent of Hitler's anti-Jewish campaign. Herr Kiesinger said, 'These two men are still alive and living in Germany today. They could have cost me my life if the war had not ended when it did.' (Twenty years after Herr Kiesinger joined the Nazi party!).

ALBERT SPEER, Hitler's Minister of Production, released after twenty years in Spandau jail, said in an interview in the *Daily Express*: 'I cannot escape responsibility, I know that I have to take my share of guilt for all those

deaths. It will be with me until I die. When I joined the Nazi party it was easy to tell myself that I wasn't anti-Semitic, that some of my best friends and colleagues were Jewish. But in joining the party I subscribed totally to the anti-Semitic theories of Hitler. That is what I have to face.' . . . Referring to his protection of 'non-Aryans' in his employ he said, 'I have often thought about it. It would be good to say that I protected them as my personal protest against the policy of the party. I can't claim that. I protected them as good executives and draughtsmen and planners.' Speaking of the extermination camps he said, 'The German people accepted it [that they were merely work camps] because, let's face it, it is what we all wanted to accept. To have made inquiries, and I was in a position to make forceful inquiries, must have revealed the truth. The truth was there but we did not seek to find it. So you see there is nothing that can absolve me. I think of it constantly.' *Spartacist-West* (an American Trotskyist journal) prints an amazing contribution to industrial history in its criticism of 'direct action' protests . . . in 1940, striking workers at a West Coast airplane plant were forced back to work by veteran troops using fixed bayonets, so that production for war could continue'. In the *Morning Star* a protest against the war in Vietnam is made by 44-year-old Mrs. Nadezhda Popova from Minsk. She holds the two highest Soviet awards for bravery as a bomber pilot. She flew night raids over the German lines. . . .

THE PRESIDENT of the Dow Chemical Company, manufacturers of napalm, Herbert L. Doan, suggested to *The East Village Other* that opposition to the use of napalm has arisen only because the aim of the war in Vietnam was not clear. The *American New Leader* (10.10.66) carries an article defending the universities conducting classified research (for example on germ warfare) for the Federal government and concludes: 'Although the university must devote the bulk of its resources to the free exchange of ideas and the conduct of open research, it is also obliged to aid the defence of the system which makes academic freedom possible.' The

-Morning Star

same issue carries an article by a Brigadier-General (retired) deploring the US press's dereliction of duty in not writing up American victories in Vietnam. He concludes: 'The pity is that a national will might polarize around this solid, shining and reassuring performance [in Vietnam] if we were but permitted to view it.' . . .

JOHN DEANE POTTER, writing in *Tit-Bits*, makes a profound sociological observation on the Moors murder. 'It might almost be said that murder—in particular mass murder—has long been the privileged prerogative of the British middle classes. But like everything else in the modern world the pattern is changing. Myra Hindley and Ian Brady, with their slum working-class council house background, have at last altered that. They have broken through the class barrier for mass murder.' . . .

THE CHELSEA POST Christmas toy advertising supplement carries an article boosting the products of the Daisy Manufacturing Co., manufacturers of toy pistols, B.B. guns and rifles, in which the author says: 'Any child is better off for knowing how to shoot. And there is no doubt that Americans have some quality of self-reliance, some ruggedness of spirit that men always acquire when they grow up with guns and accept them as part of their heritage.' An eighteen-year-old American schoolboy from Mesa, Arizona, shot dead four women and a child in a beauty parlour, with an 0.22 pistol—a Christmas present from his parents. . . .

AN AFRICAN SALVATION ARMY major was convicted in Rhodesia of hiding arms for use by Africans in Rhodesia. A Salvation Army band played for the memorial service to Rhodesians who died in the World War. Ian Smith unveiled a Liberty Bell for Rhodesia. . . .

A £30,000 BINGO SCHEME, with the score card inside the label on tins of Kit-e-Kat catfood, was declared illegal by three judges in the Divisional Court. The judges will decide whether to give leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

JON QUIXOTE.

TA Quells 'Anarchist Rebellion'

A BAND of anarchists driven from the mainland by rising prices and unemployment had gathered on the island of Arran. They were armed with stolen weapons and organised in a quasi-military force. The Scottish parachutists were mobilised and landed on Saturday to quell the revolt.

Science fiction? No, part of a report in the *Glasgow Herald* of a Territorial Army exercise which took place last month and 'arose out of the side-effects of the country's wage freeze'.

The Glasgow company were playing the role of anarchists, whom I'm afraid were defeated by superior strength. The Glasgow anarchists withdrew across the hills in a series of light engagements, and would have escaped were it not for the rapid advance of the Edinburgh men in 'C' company.

Contained by high cliffs to their left and driven back by the soldiers from Aberdeen and Perth, the insurgents were boxed in and confined by the attackers' third company, who had infiltrated behind them.

The assault on the insurgents started when three companies of the 15th (Scottish) Battalion of the Parachute Regiment (TA) were put ashore in three waves by Gemini assault craft. The description by the reporter as to what happened then is hilariously funny:

'Perhaps the regular soldier would

have waited until the assault craft were closer inshore before bounding out. Changes of clothing might not then have been required. This temporary discomfort did not however dampen the enthusiasm of the Territorials.'

Counter-insurgency has been the theme of all training in the past year by this battalion, and the exercise was a climax and a test of the year's work.

M.H.

Dear Readers,

While all who witnessed the childish bloody-mindedness that wrecked the last two 'Lamb and Flag' meetings deplore it the explanation of it that appeared in *FREEDOM* is wide of the mark.

It is wrong to say that the wreckers acted as they did because they are 'bourgeois elements'. No one called Charles Radcliffe that when he was a Committee of 100 militant and on many occasions he and some of the other wreckers have 'taken action against the police'. Far from regarding their behaviour as a 'substitute for anarchist action' the wreckers constantly stated that one of their objections to the meetings was precisely that they never did lead to any action.

Five years ago it was widely believed that the anti-nuclear movement was the spearhead of real libertarian progress in this country. A lot of people who had their eyes opened by the anti-nuclear movement now feel they have come to a dead end as that movement has fizzled out. The only two broad approaches to anarchism still propagated are the onward march of progress—technology, automation, etc.—and the belief that the workers will yet make a revolution.

Many discerning people believe that the march of 'progress' is leading to Brave New World or 1984 while they cannot see the slightest evidence that the workers are interested in libertarian ideas. (The workers gave no practical support to the better-publicised and more urgent anti-nuclear movement.) So where does an anarchist who has an emotional need to be on the winning side go from here? Obviously their frustrated feelings turn inward on the movement for not

THOSE 'LAMB & FLAG' MEETINGS

leading them to the promised land and in this sense, which is not the sense the phrase was used in the report, the wrecking is a 'substitute for anarchist action'.

None of the wreckers are 'rising young publishers, executives, professional people, etc.' just as the convenors and regulars (as distinct from those who have been 'invited along'—by whom?—these meetings have for years been open) have not all come from 'direct working class activity'. These meetings have been regarded by just about everyone who attends them as social events. Only about one meeting in ten can possibly be construed as one from which people can 'learn about anarchism'. Most of the lectures on class subjects in recent months have been delivered by Marxists, and 'Trots' of all hues have been hovering round for a long while.

The first of the two meetings that were wrecked consisted of a talk on the difficulties of human communication and a review of Forster's *The Machine Stops*, while the second was given by a professional man, a class of person the convenors effect to despise. These last lectures, like many of the preceding ones, were on quite interesting subjects but they hardly teach anarchism.

So long as utopianism is preached, so long as people's hopes are raised sky high only to be brought to earth with a thud, the kind of frustrated bickering and wrecking that ruined this series of meetings will continue. Why can't we bloody well face the fact that anarchism will always be a minority movement and then the people with an emotional need to believe in the millenium can buzz off elsewhere?

One last point: I have little time for J.-P. Schweitzer and his ideas yet it is only fair to point out that he has not given me the impression that he has been 'trying to break up meetings'. He has interrupted speakers to disagree with them on many occasions (as have many other people) but this is a different thing from deliberate wrecking.

London JEFF ROBINSON.

Open Letter to the Convenors of LAG2

Dear Comrades,
So once again the Working Class has been routed by the Bourgeoisie! Four

tiny-minded activists have brought the only public Anarchist meetings in Central London to a halt. After openly stating their intention of forcing you to stop your meetings, they were still allowed to come in and gang up in the back row—and win!

How sloppy can you get? The moment someone announces that his intention is not to present intelligent argument or to help maintain open discussion at an Anarchist meeting, your responsibility towards his freedom of speech ceases. That you should have been afraid to toss these goons out as soon as their purpose became clear—presumably because you couldn't bear the thought of them saying you were not libertarian!—demonstrates that you were no clearer in your understanding of Anarchism than they were.

By what perversion of Anarchist individualist theory they can justify their behaviour we cannot begin to guess. It doesn't seem to us to be important any more, since by their behaviour they have put themselves beyond the pale of Anarchist consideration. What is disturbing is the revelation of the incompetence with which these meetings were conducted, thus allowing them to be brought to a halt in this ignominious way.

Even more disturbing is the rewriting of history with respect to the character of London Anarchist Group meetings in the past. They were never founded simply to present a 'militant working class' point of view, but to hold meetings to put forward Anarchist points of view in all their variations. Your statement that 'Quite clearly they were begun at a time when working class activity predominated' is utter nonsense.

London Anarchist Group 2 began with a bang (on paper) a year or so ago when about 20 signatories announced its formation with the intention of rectifying all the shortcomings of LAG 1—the Group which had run Central London meetings for many, many years. These signatories included some real old working class inactivists dug up from the past, and its programme included a most impressive list of activities—not one of which has been fulfilled. Indeed, so far the achievements of LAG 2 have been to allow the work of LAG 1 to collapse. For instance the Summer Schools which had been an annual feature of the movement's life for over 20 years are no longer held, and

now the Central London meetings have collapsed, through sheer inadequacy in dealing with half-a-dozen loudmouthed 'bourgeoisie'.

Incidentally, can we point out the illogicality of your arguments on this narrow 'class' issue, when in paragraph five you denounce your disruptors for being 'professional' types, while in paragraph seven you blandly praise your speaker while describing him as 'a professional man'. What the hell has this got to do with anything anarchistic? If we are getting down to personalities with respect to occupations, what are you to say about the fact that two out of your four good selves are concerned with running bookshops—a fairly middle class and intellectual occupation? In paragraph ten you have, most properly, a word of praise for the management of 'The Lamb & Flag'—whom we know to be good libertarian Conservatives! It was in fact left to the landlady to come up and bring a little order into your meeting!

This whole episode and all that led up to it seems to us to be quite shameful, arising as it does out of the stupid peddling of narrow aspects of Anarchism, raising personal preferences into harmful and disruptive prejudices. We are sick and tired of the constant sniping that goes on between those who claim to have the monopoly of truth about Anarchism; the Individualists on one side and the Anarcho-Syndicalists on the other, and all the various shades in between.

Both sides in this conflict have shown themselves lacking in simple basic understanding of the central philosophy of Anarchism. Ill-mannered shouting down at an Anarchist meeting betrays a complete lack of the dignity and inner strength which is the prime necessity for the mature individualist, while the feeble inability to defend your activities against this disruption shows a grave lack of the guts necessary to sustain a militant standpoint. You now come whining to 'The Movement' (is this something apart from LAG 2?) to 'take note of the conduct of these people', and bravely assure us—now it is too late—that 'your meetings are not going to put up with this again'. Why did you put up with it at all?

Yours fraternally,

PHILIP SANSON.
FRANCES SOK'LOV.

Youth Conference

Continued from page 2

May we remind you that if you wish to present for discussion theoretical arguments it is necessary to send us the text of your paper so that a copy can be sent to all the other comrades and groups. If you can translate the text into English or Italian or, better still, send several typed copies this will be of very great help. These, as well as your proposed items for the agenda, and information on your attendance must reach us before the end of November. Address all communications to: Circolo 'Sacco e Vanzetti', Via Le Murillo 1, Milano, Italy.

Translated by M.C.

PRICES & INCOMES BOARD AND ALL OUR READERS—Please Note

STARTING JANUARY 1967 the price of *FREEDOM* will be raised to 6d. It will continue to be published on each Saturday except the first in each month, when *Anarchy* comes out, but the last issue of *FREEDOM* in each month will be of eight pages. We hope in these extra four pages to deal in greater scope with current important matters, and to include some theoretical material, as well as giving more attention to cultural matters beside our regular art column.

The increase in price entails an increase in subscription. Existing subscriptions will be honoured at the old rate. Readers whose subscriptions fall due up to the end of October will by now have received renewal notices. These will be accepted for a whole year at the old rate if paid before the end of November for subscriptions in the U.K. and Europe, and before the end of the year for other places abroad.

In order to relieve ourselves of burden-

some book-keeping, all subscriptions falling due during November and December will be filled to the end of the year on the existing subscription, and will be renewable at the new rates from January 1, 1967. You can help us a great deal by renewing without waiting for a renewal notice; and by paying subscriptions separately from other accounts.

The new rates are:—
FREEDOM only (per year)
£1 10s. (\$4.50) surface mail
£2 16s. (\$8.00) airmail
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£2 10s. (\$7.50) surface mail both
£4 15s. (\$12.50) airmail both
FREEDOM (airmail) &
ANARCHY (seamail)
£3 17s. (\$10.50) per year

Building Unions Attack Militants

NOVEMBER 7 was the day when building workers should have received a wage increase, freely negotiated last year, of 3d. for craftsmen and 2½d. for labourers. However, this has been frozen for six months because of the Government's incomes policy.

The majority of the executives of the building trade unions have accepted the Government's policy and in fact are carrying out the decisions voted on at the Annual Delegate Conferences. But although these decisions were taken at conferences held in the summer, the resolutions sent up by the branches were voted on before the effects of the squeeze had changed the economic situation. Legislations was a runner, but not the freezing of existing wage agreements. So it is little wonder that trade unionists should express themselves, especially now that the whole position of free bargaining is in danger.

The unofficial committee of stewards and active trade unionists, the London Joint Sites Committee, called for a demonstration of a half-day stoppage in protest against the freezing of the pay rise. Other similar committees in Manchester and Liverpool also gave their support. On a number of sites in these cities a demonstration took place, while in London there was a march from Speakers' Corner to the employers' headquarters in Cavendish Street, and then on to Denison House for a meeting.



It must be admitted that the turnout in London of a few hundred was disappointing even though several of the bigger sites were represented. However, there were reasons for this. Quite a few jobs have been in dispute recently and because of the squeeze, many workers have had an overtime cutback. In addition, the unions, through the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, attacked those organising the token stoppage. In a statement to the press, the NFBTO said: 'Officers and members who participate in any of these proposed unofficial activities are warned that they expose themselves to disciplinary action as a consequence.' In a letter to all Federation Stewards, the Regional Secretary of the NFBTO has said: 'I wish to bring to your attention a directive from the Executive Committee, regarding the unofficial demonstration arranged for Monday, November 7.'

'DISCIPLINARY ACTION'

'I have to advise you that if you, or your site, support this demonstration, which is contrary to the expressed policy of the Affiliated Unions, and participate in any of these proposed unofficial activities, then you are exposing yourselves to disciplinary action as a conse-

quence.' We will have to wait and see what 'disciplinary action' is to be taken by the Federation and the affiliated unions, but an attack from the executives was not unexpected.

With other joint sites committees forming in different parts of the country and a paper, the *Rank and File* putting across a militant policy for building workers, the union bureaucrats had to make a move. This surely illustrates that these 'Committees' are having an effect. The Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers' Executive Council is worried to the extent that at the end of a statement in which they defend the acceptance of the freeze, they make an attack, printed in bold type, on an 'unofficial committee' which is 'planning a stoppage' for November 7. They do not name it, but smear it by writing that 'This committee may or may not be composed of building trade unionists ...'

The ASW executive think that the freeze must be accepted because the 'Lowest-paid workers have been hardest hit by rising prices and they stand to gain the most in the short run'. But how long is the short run? Prices can go up a lot in six months and even if the lower-paid worker gets a rise during the period of severe restraint, it won't make up for what he has lost through higher prices, rents, wage freeze and possible cuts in bonus and overtime earnings.

The employers, knowing that the unions are trying to curb militancy, have used the 'Joint Sites' as a bogymen. Both Mytons on the Barbican scheme and Sunleys on the Horseferry Road site are blaming this Committee for the disputes they have on their hands. Militant trade unionists are assailed both by the employers and the union executives. This is the inevitable consequence of taking things into their own hands. Building workers have taken decisions for action against policies that not only attack their standard of living but also trade unionism as such.

Similar committees of rank and file trade unionists have been and are being formed in other industries. Rank and file direct action is spreading and a conference, sponsored by a number of these committees, will soon be held in London. It is to be hoped that some co-ordination and liaison will emerge from this gathering and that for some, at least, the fragmentation and isolation of action which now takes place will, in the future, be remedied. All success to this conference.

P.T.

LETTER

OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL

Comrades,

Ownership can either mean *de jure* ownership, which is to all intents and purposes meaningless if it cannot be enforced, or it means control of with use of the consequent benefits. There are all too many examples in this twentieth century of ownership being *de jure* vested in the community, with little or no benefit to the commonality of that community. Those like your correspondent Newell or the SPGB generally who insist on waffling about ownership either are unaware of which century they inhabit, or use terms in a meaningless sense.

Workers' control means control of an enterprise by those who work therein. It therefore is perfectly consistent with the desire to abolish both capitalists and workers, as classes, at the same time to desire workers' control, as there will

still be, in the free society, differing enterprises. Indeed, since it will involve a degree of decentralization, an enterprise will in all probability involve less rather than more people than now; and workers' control asserts the right of those in each such enterprise to work by their own methods, no doubt taking into consideration the needs of others but retaining decision-making themselves.

I don't know why it is that FREEDOM so often gets letters asking it to drop its best correspondents. I can only suppose other editors are jealous and want Arthur and Bill on their own staff, so get stooges to ask FREEDOM to drop them. May I suggest that instead of saving space by dropping them you save it by ignoring the periodic letters asking you to drop them.

Witney

LAURENS OTTER.

FREEDOM

For Workers' Control

NOVEMBER 19 1966 Vol 27 No 36

BARBARA TRANSPORTED

ON OCTOBER 10, Barbara Castle, the Minister of Transport, misinformed her television audience that 'our towns and cities will never be able to cope with their traffic, or the transport needs of millions of people, without improving and expanding their public transport services'.

That Ministers make fatuous public statements is to be expected and accepted but, when the material evidence publicly contradict Ministerial policy, then the political pamphleteer could, with some justice, whistle the word traitor from his lexicographic warehouse of abuse and throw it soundwise. Yet such is the fantasy of this situation, to use this term against these men and women is to cry treason in an orderly madhouse.

We have a social democratic Minister of Transport mouthing, in all sincerity, the pious liberal sentiments of her trade while outside in the very streets the transport of a major city slowly ebbs away as garages are closed, staff reduced, routes wiped out and men and women are left to wait longer and longer to travel beyond walking distance.

Time and time again the official lie has been offered that it is lack of human labour that forces the transport bureaucracy to suffer these transport reductions onto a complaining community but as the official wage freeze has its effect and unemployment creeps into the London area so the labour position within the London bus garages becomes easier. For the first time in many years there are now spare staff to cover holiday and sickness service rota jobs, scheduled buses that once stood idle in garages through lack of manpower are now on the road, and overtime, to cover staff shortage, is no longer to be had for the asking. Yet in January of 1967, after 15 years of deliberately bleeding London of its public transport, there will again be a savage weeding out of this pathetic transport system while Barbara makes happy motions with her hands within some closed office.

What we have is a Social Democratic politician still making electoral speeches and fearful to use the power of her mini-ministry against the time-entrenched bureaucracy who know that they will still be warming their arses when Barbara is just another politician out of office so that while the politician outlines vague schoolgirl schemes to her 'Directing Group' the unknown men who control London's transport will continue their declared policy of overall reduction in direct contradiction to the Minister's declared aim.

Between 1948 and 1965 there has been a 43% reduction in bus services, but in 1966 to 1967 the yearly average reduction of 2½% of buses on the road will be five times as much. Over the last few years London Transport has managed to lose over 2,000,000 passengers, for it is futile to stand in the cold and the rain for the bus that never seems to come when one can walk the distance in ten or fifteen minutes. Yet according to the Transport's own statistics 77.7% of those who travel by bus travel two miles or less, while 45.5% travel less than one mile.

Every conductor knows that as an economic unit the profit from a bus comes from the rabbits who travel short distances, so therefore cold logic demands that if you are running a transport system for profit then what the community needs is a transport that is frequent, quick and comfortable.

Some few weeks ago the tragic and unnecessary death of so many tiny

children in Aberfan drew attention for a few brief hours to the stupidity and the evil of economic efficiency being allowed to set the pace in any communal activity, for always it is balanced on the swordedge of lower wage payments and public disaster. But as long as we accept a society where profit is made the sole criterion for judging any community service then that service will fall into the grey hands of clerks-in-office who, by their very calling, are men without vision or imagination.

We are a major city yet our public transport is an international disgrace. Hours upon hours are added to the weekly work-hours of the mass of Londoners merely in their efforts to get to and from their places of employment, while after midnight the city dies through lack of public transport (beyond a skeleton night service) and our Underground system, that once won world-praise, becomes a catacomb of silent and empty tunnels.

So many times over the long years have anarchist speakers and writers expounded the virtue and the necessity of judging all communal commitments as social services and not as demonstrations of financial skill and over the long and dragging years they (those forgotten men speaking on windy corners, writing in minority papers and speaking in dirty, sad little rooms) have been proved so right. Our libraries, our water, our sewers, your police, your courts, your armies, your prisons, our roads, our hospitals and our schools are rightly judged not by what profit they can show in the clerk's tally but how well or badly they serve the community.

Transport for millions is now a daily irritant and, for our bureaucracy, a dire and unpleasant necessity. Only when it is interwoven into the social fabric of our metropolitan society, and operated on the moneyless basis of our other community services, will the clerks-in-office turn their dead eyes in the direction of public service, for they will be judged not in the back rooms of the moneychangers, but in the streets where the people stand and the buses should be one following on the other as long as the people wish it.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

PRESS FUND

Only £32 Short

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:
WEEK 45, NOVEMBER 12, 1966:
Expenses: 45 weeks at £80: £3600
Income: Sales and Subs.: £2583
DEFICIT: £1017

Ealing: Anarchist Group 11/6; London, N.1: M.K. 5/-; Baldock: R.G. 18/-; Birmingham: L.C. 3/-; London, N.1: T.C. 18/-; Glasgow: D.M. 7/6; Selby: H.N. 5/-; Reading: B.T. 4/-; California: I.U. 10/6; Warrington: A.M. 2/-; Ohio: G.S. £6/13/-; Litchworth: L.O. 10/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; London: C. 5/-; Kent: K.B. 2/-; Exmouth: A.H. 4/-; Kenya: E.M. 5/10; Craven, N.S.W.: M.S. 3/-; San Francisco: D.D. 9/-; Harlow: K.N. 5/-; Cleveland, Ohio: T.H. £1/8/-; Alberta: N.M. 14/-.

TOTAL: £15 18 4
Previously Acknowledged: £970 0 0

1966 Total to Date: £985 18 4

*Denotes Regular Contributor.
Gift of Books—London, S.W.1: D.R.

Contact Column

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

Libertarian Teachers' Association. Meeting to discuss organisation/future activities/publications, 7.30 p.m. Friday, November 25, 5 Caledonian Road, N.1.

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.

Vietnam. Open-air Protest Meetings held every Saturday in North Hanover Street, Glasgow at 3 p.m. Glasgow Anarchist Group and USM platform. All libertarian groups invited to attend and participate.

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.

Direct Action Decorators. A free association of independent building workers invites enquiries from building tradesmen and potential customers. Write to Peter Allen, 6 St. Stephens Crescent, London, W.2.

Accommodation. Martin and Sue Gilbert seek unfurnished accommodation in Greater London area — consider sharing — phone PARK 4701.

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

Badges. Small quantities made to order, black lettering on coloured background (sorry, no symbols) for anarchist groups or individuals. Proceeds to anarchist duplicator fund. (Badges 1 in. diameter, 1½ in. shortly) 1/- each, 10/- per dozen, 30 for £1. Assorted if necessary. Cash with orders, or enquiries to: H.A.F., c/o 138 Pennymead, Harlow, Essex.

Accommodation. Attic wanted in Camden Town area by unmarried but stable couple. Furnished and own cooking. Lazenby, 40 Mornington Terrace, N.W.1.

If you wish to make contact let us know.