

IN GOD WE TRUST - BUT WE TAKE ALONG THE ALSATIANS



WE STOOD AROUND the camp-fire, the trailer caravans on a small patch of grass on a cold November day and waited for the council men who were due to arrive at 2 p.m. The caravan site was at the back of a factory on the corner of Brixham Road and Paradise Street of little terraced houses. It was cold and in the dirty cloudy sky the orange sun looked on but did not warm us.

The gypsies only two days ago were chased off a site near Barking and now the East Ham local authorities threatened to move them on again. They would be left on some inconvenient spot on the highway liable to be booked for obstruction.

The police arrived first and waited on the other side, then, right on time, came the men from the council in their police-like uniforms leading Alsatian dogs. At 2 p.m. the East Ham Corporation Transport Department's towing vehicle number AJD 532 with its motto of *Deo Confidimus* over a coat of arms drove on to the grass and backed against a caravan. Two workmen jumped out, brisk and business-like, to couple the links.

The men around the fire stood and said nothing, the children cried, the dogs barked and the police with the Black Maria and walkie-talkies watched from the distance.

Then the unexpected happened. Mary Smith, clutching her child, interposed herself between the two vehicles. Two other women slowly joined her. Then a young man in a good suit and carrying a rolled-up umbrella strolled casually

over. 'Excuse me,' he said politely to the workmen as he carefully sat down on the wet grass in front of the women.

Gratton Puxton is his name and all honour to him. He was brought up by gypsies and had identified himself with their cause. Yet he told me he would not have sat down had the women not shown their courage first.

It is only by chance that he was there. He read in a newspaper a short paragraph about a quarrel that ended in a fight between two gypsies and he decided to visit them. There he found them driven from grass verge to the 'Debris' (as the area around there is called) and decided to help as much as he could. He told them that they must organise and resist.

This was not the first time that Gratton fought for the gypsies. In Ireland he organised them until they got land where they could live unmolested and where they built a school, which is staffed by voluntary labour.

None of the men around the campfire could read or write. But they are not loafers. They live by asphaltting work, selling and buying scrap, by making and selling wooden flowers and pegs. Their caravans are spotlessly clean inside with gleaming brass, warm and cosy. You should see their pottery and their bone china cups and saucers. The children cannot read but they are very intelligent, friendly and amusing. The women cook with calor gas. I was offered a cheese sandwich three inches thick and good real coffee.

The nearest lavatory is half a mile away and they have to buy their water at 5/- per 10 gallon container at the garage where they also buy their petrol.

Gratton had telephoned the press and the man from the *Guardian* was there with a photographer. This clearly had a restraining effect on the authorities.

'What union do you belong to?'
'None of your business.'
'Do you like doing this?'

There was no answer. The younger workman answered for him, 'Not really, mate.'

Those softly spoken words could be heard all over the grass. The women stood unflinchingly. Then, as suddenly as they came, the council men pulled out, muttering that they will consult their superiors, their lawyers and possibly their consciences.

When they were all gone the police inspector walked over to Gratton and said: 'That was a silly thing to do sitting down like that.' I could not hear Gratton's reply but the policeman's further rejoinder I shall always remember. He said, if you please: 'I don't understand you. What discrimination are you referring to?'

Well good luck to you Tom and Charity Eastwood, Alf and June West, Joe and Eliza Rodley, Arthur Brown, Nelson Buller, Frank and Rose West, Mary Smith, brave Mary Smith, and the rest of your hounded-like-dogs families, 37 kids without school *et al*—wherever you are now.
JOHN RETY.

WHILST writing articles on the Rhodesian affair for *FREEDOM* in the past, I have always maintained that at the end of all the shouting a deal would be done. It was obvious that this would be so for purely economic reasons and, let's face it, these are the only reasons that count in a situation like this. Wilson cannot break the 'white' Rhodesians without the use of force, force cannot be used, because it would mean the destruction of the Kariba dam, and with that the crippling of the Zambian economy. Britain depends on Zambia for something like a quarter of her copper, so she must try to please the Zambians by making a lot of noise about the rebels, but it will only be noise and hot air for, if the 'whites' in Rhodesia fall, the shares in South Africa will totter too. Everyone involved is aware of this and so it has dragged on and on over the last year or more while they have been striking attitudes and hoping that they can get out of the situation without losing too much face.

Wilson has outlined the famous six points that the 'white' Rhodesians must agree to, so what was there to talk about between him and Smith? Yet they must bargain for a long time. To impress the mugs with their strength of character? The African politicians have blustered and threatened the use of force, but they have no force to use, and as every sensible politician knows 'a handful of might is worth a heapful of right'. A few courageous Africans have gone in for

Talk and More Talk

guerrilla tactics and have been caught and jailed (or shot) and that is all the force that will be used.

Now these two 'great men' cannot agree and the problem will go to the United Nations, it will be very interesting to see what Wilson will do. The Rhodesian border with South Africa would have to be closed to enforce sanctions properly and would South Africa stand for this? My guess is that she would, but it's only a guess and the British economy can't afford to depend on guesses.

If the South Africans decided against all commonsense to stand against the United Nations, either the UN would back down or the balloon would go up with a vengeance. Neither Wilson nor Smith nor the South Africans want this to happen and so it won't. Those die-hard 'white' supremacist Rhodesians will either go to South Africa or come to Earl's Court and the rest will settle down to good supervising jobs under the eventual (but not yet) African Government. I expect

that the Africans will have to wait perhaps twenty years to be robbed by their own people.

It is not enough to change the government in this country in order to bring freedom to Africa. Mr. Wilson may perhaps even care about the Africans and their poverty and misery, but it is not enough to care. We, the anarchists, say that you cannot change society unless you change the economic set-up too. A Labour Government is bound by the same chains as the Trade Union movement and any other progressive organisation that wants to see a more just and egalitarian type of society. It must, if it works through the same channels, do the same things in order to survive. Wilson has got to make capitalism work, and indeed he has got to make it work better than the 'Tories'. So he has got to protect British interests in South Africa, smash the unions, cut the standard of living, and agree with Smith.

JAFSIE.

Brighton Vietnam Demo

THE BRIGHTON CHURCH CASE was resumed on November 21, and was concluded on November 25 with the conviction of all eight defendants—Nicolas Walter, Susan Abrahams, Derek Russell, Bernard Miles, Heather Russell, Andy Anderson, Megan Walsh, and Jim Radford—on the charge that they were concerned together in indecent behaviour in the Dorset Gardens Methodist Church on October 2.

On Monday (November 21), Nicolas Walter gave evidence that he had gone independently to the gallery, had called out after George Brown completed the lesson, left the church calmly, argued with police who stopped him, and was taken away in a police car. Sue Abrahams described how she had gone down to Brighton for the CND demonstration, had found out from the Labour Party headquarters that there was a service, and had gone along to it; she had committed no offence whatever. Andy Anderson had gone down to attend a meeting of the Midland carworkers, and had heard about the service. Jim Radford had gone down to Brighton for the various demonstrations, had joined in the interruptions in church, and shook off stewards who were attacking Andy Anderson; he produced a record of what he had said in church for the court, written on Brighton police station lavatory paper, and this was accepted as an exhibit.

The rest of the defence witnesses were

called by Nicolas Walter. Nicolas Ralph and his wife, Penny, described his behaviour outside the church. Mr. Ralph had taken two photographs which showed Mr. Walter being held by and arguing with several policemen in an almost empty street, and both Mr. and Mrs. Ralph agreed that he had used no violence and had made no threats. On Tuesday (November 22), Ruth Walter gave evidence about her husband's behaviour when he was coming down the stairs from the church gallery and when he was outside in the street, and agreed with the Ralphs that he had used no violence and had made no threats. She also described how she and several other people had gone to the police station after the service to find out what was happening to those who had been arrested, but they had been rudely brushed off by the police until she managed to get a solicitor to telephone the police station from London. The two station sergeants who had been on duty that day gave evidence, but it was so confused and contradictory that it helped no one on either side.

The closing speeches began on November 22. Mr. Benedict Birnberg, defending four of the accused, asked to defer his until his 'expert witness' had given evidence in the afternoon, so Jim Radford and Sue Abrahams agreed to make theirs first.

Lord Soper gave evidence as an 'expert witness'—that is, a witness with special

knowledge about one aspect of the case rather than about the facts alleged against the defendants—for about half an hour on the Tuesday afternoon. He said he was in entire agreement with a great deal of what the demonstrators had said in their interruptions, though he did not himself believe that the Prime Minister was a hypocrite. He regarded the words they had used as provocative, in some cases unfair, and not the sort of thing that went well with the average respectable habits of a church service. He could see the argument against such interruptions. But this was a service which was deliberately linked with a political occasion. A large majority of the congregation were not regular worshippers but Labour Party delegates, and if they were upset by what happened it probably did them good. The choice of lessons from Micah and Matthew was a deliberately controversial act, and it was hardly surprising if people were moved to protest. The interruptions were untoward, no doubt, but to call them indecent was a falsification of the deep convictions of the people who uttered them. These were no strange or repulsive interruptions of an obscene or indecent kind; anyway it was rubbish to say that any kind of interruption to a church service was illegal—he was brought up in a Methodist Church where such interruptions were quite normal, and they were a natural part of one of the traditions of Methodism which he was sorry had gone. He thought the demonstration improper rather than indecent, and impropriety was not necessarily an evil thing in the presence of the evil of world war.

Mr. Birnberg then made his closing speech, which naturally concentrated on the legal aspects of the case. He pointed out that there was no real evidence against Bernard Miles, and very little against Derek or Heather Russell (and

Continued on page 2

RADICALS IN A TEACUP

LAST MONDAY the students at LSE got fed up with the college authority's illiberal attitudes, so they decided to take action. The particular case which sparked it off was the summoning of the Union president before the board of discipline because he followed the instructions of the Union and wrote to *The Times* objecting to the appointment of ex-Rhodesia Dr. Adams as the college's new Director. So far so good. The students seem to have realised that Authority does not give liberty, you have to take it. However, the demands of the students, as made in a leaflet they gave out, appear narrow and legalistic. As a layman on the subject of universities it has always seemed incredible to me that the people in charge should be interested in anything more than whether a student can do the work or not. So why talk about legal representation and record of evidence and the likes?

The action taken was a boycott of lectures for the day, and a 'meeting' held on the steps of the building. The

speakers wanted a table to stand on but Authority said no so they went without. The organisers understood that the police would stop traffic in the road provided the meeting was kept short, but the copper on the spot said they wouldn't. The meeting started with the students' leaders yelling at the 500 or so students to let traffic through or the half dozen or so police would stop the meeting. To the accompaniment of revving engines the students, who had dutifully obeyed the voice of Authority as usual, were told of a few measly concessions that had been made. The complacent attitude of the speakers was too much even for some of the students who remarked, 'Is that all?' The one who did try to say something more into the microphone was hastily shut up by his leaders.

If the students of LSE or any other university really do want more liberal conditions they will have to fight harder than this.

BRIAN MCGEE.

Another Prisoner for Peace

ON NOVEMBER 22 William White, a conscientious objector who has been resisting an order to undertake non-combatant duties in the Australian army (see *FREEDOM* 13.8.66) was arrested. He sat down on the doorstep of his parents' home in Sydney, refusing to co-operate with the authorities, and was carried to a car through a crowd of demonstrators. Two young men threw themselves in front of a car but were removed by the police.

Later that day Mr. A. A. Calwell, leader of the Opposition, said, 'If we win on Saturday he will be out on Monday' (Mr. Calwell having failed to get elected did not have to keep his promise). Bill White is now at the Eastern Command Personnel Depot, Watsons Bay, NSW, Australia. The information arrived too late at the WRI for the 'Prisoners for Peace' list. However, please make a special effort to send Bill White greetings. Cards to Australia must now go Air Mail, not later than December 14.—(From *WRI Newsletter*.)

ANARCHY 70

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YOU EITHER THINK that Reich was a genius (as I do), or you think he was a madman who invented a panacea for all evil—Orgone Energy. Most people who have heard of him accept the latter definition. Those who were nearest to him thought him a great psychologist, an absolutely honest scientist, a wonderful sexologist; we thought him the only successor to Freud.

In America he was hounded literally to his death by smearing scandal makers. Sick journalists described his Orgone Accumulator as a means for attaining a sexual orgasm. Hence it was with some concern I read in the *New Statesman* the words 'Reich rites'. A weekly competition was about sex and the compiler mentioned some of the topics appearing in the answers. I at once wrote a letter to the NS. I didn't keep a copy but, as far as I can recollect, I suggested that the phrase perpetuated the American smear. I said that Reich was one of my best friends and I knew him well. I said that Reich was almost puritanical in his attitude to sex; he found sex stories revolting, and the word fuck drove him to fury, for, to him it meant the wrong sex, the male aggressive sex shown in the word laying; sex without love or tenderness, sex without a thought of the pleasure of the woman. Masturbation on promotion in short. Anyone who has read his *Sexual Revolution* knows that the man who wrote it could never have had any connection with rites, with pornography. Reich was a great man and even his Freudian enemies had to admit that his *Character Analysis* is a classic.

Then how come that the NS refused to publish a word in his defence? But it wasn't the first time. At the time of Reich's trials the then editor, Kingsley Martin, rejected letters some of us wrote in defence of Reich. So did the *Guardian*. The fact that I am writing this for

FREEDOM, a journal with a small circulation, shows that of the papers of the Establishment none of them will mention Reich.

Why this boycotting of Reich? Why all the bitter enmity shown in USA? A mere crank does not get abuse and hate. The man who believes the earth is flat is not hounded as Reich was. People laugh at him but they did not laugh at Reich. They smeared him in

Freedom to Sell

Dear Editors,

I believe it is a tradition in England that all socialists should be allowed to sell or distribute their literature, without hindrance or fear of violence, outside public meetings. I would like to report an outrageous violation of this tradition to your readers and ask for their assistance in preventing it from happening again.

As quite a number of people on the Left know, I manage Pioneer Book Service, a large outlet for Trotsky's books in England, and I or some of my friends try to cover most meetings with our literature. On Thursday, November 17, I went along to Caxton Hall to sell literature outside the Socialist Labour League's meeting on the tenth anniversary of the Hungarian revolution.

I arrived at 7.15 p.m. and began to sell the *International Socialist Review* and a pamphlet, critical of the SLL, entitled, *Healy 'Reconstructs' the Fourth International*. Several people were selling literature. A group of Irish Communists were selling their publication and someone was selling the *English Militant*.

Initially, there was some baiting of me by the Socialist Labour League sup-

porters who were selling the *Newsletter* in the doorway of Caxton Hall, but nevertheless I was not prevented from selling.

At 7.50 p.m., Gerry Healy and Michael Banda entered the hall. A few moments later Healy came to the entrance and indicated to his followers that I should be removed from the front of the hall.

I was immediately set upon and physically assaulted by six or seven Socialist Labour League supporters. My literature was knocked from my hands—I was punched and thrown to the ground, my glasses were smashed, and as I lay on the ground I was kicked repeatedly in the groin and stomach.

After the attack I had to attend the casualty department of the Middlesex Hospital and I was forced to stay in bed for the greater part of the next day. At the moment of writing I am still badly bruised.

The issue is a simple one. The Socialist Labour League leadership hope by their actions to prevent me selling my literature outside their meetings. They hope to take away my freedom of speech. This attack comes after a number of threats against me and my friends by members or supporters of the Socialist Labour League. At Brighton during the Labour Party Conference, my comrades were physically threatened and prevented

violated, and for these reasons we feel forced to convict. He then said that they would send Nicolas Walter and Jim Radford to prison for two months because they both had many previous convictions, and because they had both stated their determination to continue in their course of breaking the law (they had in fact stated no such determination, though they certainly have it if the situation makes such action necessary); and they fined Sue Abrahams, Derek Russell, Bernard Miles, Heather Russell, Andy Anderson, and Meg Walsh £5 each. They made no order for costs, which had been very large on both sides.

Nicolas Walter had already handed in a notice of appeal as soon as the conviction for indecent behaviour was announced, and when the sentences were passed Mr. Birnberg handed in a notice of appeal on behalf of all the defendants, and applied successfully for bail for Nicolas Walter and Jim Radford until ten days after the appeal is heard.

The Magistrates must now state their case to the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court. The appeal is only against conviction, and only on a point of law—whether the proved behaviour of the defendants amounts to a charge of being concerned together in indecent behaviour. The appeal will not be heard for several months, so the case is still far from over, but little real hope is felt that the magistrates' decision will be overruled.

Brighton Vietnam Demo

Continued from page 1 that mostly given by Sergeant Osborne, whom he asked the court to treat as a most unreliable witness). He then argued that whatever his clients had done, it did not amount to 'indecent behaviour', and he backed up this submission with a long list of statutes and cases referring to the concept of indecency in English law. He finally referred to what Lord Soper had said, and stressed that his clients were all deeply sincere.

The magistrates returned at about 1.30, and stated that they found the joint charge of indecent behaviour proved; but they dismissed all the other charges, both those which had been heard (riotous behaviour against Andy Anderson and Jim Radford, and riotous behaviour and threatening behaviour against Nicolas Walter) and those which had not been heard (riotous behaviour against Derek Russell and Heather Russell, riotous behaviour and obstructing the police against Bernard Miles and Meg Walsh, and insulting words against Sue Abrahams). This meant that all the charges brought at the time of the demonstration were dismissed, and the only charge found proved was one brought by the police three weeks later, after a vain attempt to bring charges of

conspiracy.

Before the magistrates passed sentence, the previous convictions of the defendants were read out, and speeches were made in mitigation. Jim Radford had seven convictions, Nicolas Walter and Bernard Miles had six each, Sue Abrahams had three, Andy Anderson and Meg Walsh had one each, and Derek and Heather Russell had none; all the convictions were the result of political demonstrations or fly-posting.

Mr. Birnberg made a normal plea for mitigation for his four clients, repeating that it had been a political church service, that the demonstrators had meant no offence to the genuine worshippers, and that they were all actuated by sincere motives.

The magistrates passed sentence at about 2.0. The chairman, Mr. Herbert Ripper, said: 'We have listened very carefully to all the evidence placed before us, and we are saddened to see people of your intelligence in this position. You seem to have a blind spot in your reasoning. All virtue is not in one pot, and all evil is not in another pot. We cannot see how in any way you can further your cause by interrupting a divine service. It is an institution which is protected by law, and it was a hard-won right. That right has been grossly

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. Day, 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 Pennyhead, 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 Barltrop's, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near Saffron Walden.

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson. Next meeting December 18.

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. Contact Robin Lovell, c/o Students' Union, University, Sheffield. Tel. 24076.

Ratray, 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 Jeanie'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

BRIGHTON. Anyone interested get in touch with R. Miller, 2 Percival Terrace, Brighton, 7.

SWANSEA. Any interested in Anarchist group please contact Ian Bone via the University, Swansea.

HERTFORDSHIRE. Contact Stuart Mitchel, South View, Potters Heath, Welwyn.

to do with anti-Reichism. I don't know enough science to say whether it exists or not, and I do not care a button about it. But I do care for the Reich I knew and could understand, the man whose analysis of human character was deep and convincing. And I care a lot about the boycott, for it suggests fear of the truth, fear of being considered unorthodox, fear of life itself.

The NS and the *Guardian* are Liberal. I begin to understand what Reich said to me in one of his last letters... 'Beware of Liberals. They sit on the fence; they are neither one thing nor the other. They are liberal only in words.'

A. S. NEILL.

LETTERS

from selling our literature. The same was true at the recent anti-war demonstration in Liege, Belgium, where I was threatened.

I refuse to be intimidated. Neither a Fascist Mosley nor an ultra-left sectarian Gerry Healy, who imagines himself to be a Trotskyist should be allowed to curtail our democratic rights. I intend to be present at the next public meeting of the Socialist Labour League to sell my literature. I ask for the full support from all people on the Left to ensure I do it without interference from the misguided followers of Gerry Healy. Fraternally,

London, E.1 ERNEST TATE.

Whilst we sympathise with Comrade Tate we would echo the sentiments of Vincent Johnson in Peace News (2.12.66) that it is ironic for followers of Trotsky (of any variety) to protest against terrorism since the 'Old Man' himself was responsible for, among other things, the putting down of the Kronstadt revolt. Nevertheless we think it would be useful to have volunteer FREEDOM and Anarchy sellers outside any future SLL meetings. Not only for non-violent resistance—but to sell the papers!—Eds.

Presence du Theatre

Dear Comrades,

A section of MCCA (CND in England) has been founded in the Drama Company where I am working now. In March, 1967, we are going to produce a play about nuclear war problems: *Megamort*. We want to organise an exhibition, gathering documentation on an international scale (photographs, papers, etc.). We also wish to receive information about activities in other countries. At the same time we shall hold meetings and debates about this problem. I am going to write to CND but I think you could help me with regard to anarchist activity. You can write directly to my address.

Our company is a Société Coopérative. We are 16 living in community. Now we are acting a classic (*Le malade imaginaire* by Molière) for schools. Then in December we start with *Liberté Liberté* for adults. It is a young author's play about power and freedom. There is scope for discussion in it, so we will have debates about it.

We try to make contacts with people. We are touring South-east France; instead of sleeping in hotels we prefer, when it is possible, to be received by the inhabitants, we think it is one of the ways of breaking down the false barrier between actor and audience and it is more in keeping with our ideology. (Mile.) CHANTAL QUINCY.

Présence du Théâtre, 84 Bedarrides, France.

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.

WISBECH. Anyone interested write Albert Community, Chaptor House, Leverington, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

CAMDEN (LONDON). Provos, Anarchist/Provo/C.100/Action group—anyone interested please contact Chris Davis at 56 Chalk Farm Road, N.W.1.

SLOUGH/SOUTH BUCKS. Please get in touch with R. E. Williams, 8 Marunden Green, Britwell Estate, Slough, Bucks.

ABROAD

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

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

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

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

U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE. Discussion/Action group anyone? Contact Ed Strauss, RFD 2 Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.

UNDERGROUND FILMS

ANDY WARHOL, Andy Warhol, andy warhol, ANDY WARHOL, ANDY warhol, Andy Warhol is not a member of the London Film-makers' Co-operative. This is a London Film-makers' Co-op, of, by, and for, London film-makers. We have a 'love affair' with the New York Film-makers' Co-op, and do have an exchange of communications, ideas, and we hope, film.

Last week we called a press conference to announce the establishment of the London Film-makers' Co-op, and during the course of contacting members of the press we had reason to telephone the BBC in the hope that that great public corporation would bless us, define us, and expose us to the millions who get love from the box.

WE: I thought you'd like to know that we've just formed the London Film-makers' Co-operative.

BBC-TV: Yes, I'm glad you called, do you have any Warhol films?

WE: No, we're a London group, Warhol lives and works in New York.

BBC-TV: But really, how can you talk about underground movies without showing Andy Warhol?

WE: Look, Andy Warhol isn't new-film-making, he's just one of a group that has been working in New York, and for my money, the absolute worst of that group. His films are shit for my money, they don't turn people on or work with an audience, they attack the audience, and I repeat, for my money, they're shit!

BBC-TV: Let's face it, if not for Warhol, the average person would never have heard of underground films. The average audience has never heard of the other film-makers.

WE: You sound like Warhol's press agent, one of the many, and you're all wrong. People who follow film do know of the others, like Jonas Mekas, Kenneth Anger, Stan Brakhage, Jack Smith, Robert Breer, Len Lye, Bruce Conner, Ed Emshwiller, Al Leslie, Robert Frank, Jean Genet, Gregory Markopoulos, Ron Rice, Stan Vanderbeek, and there are many more. Right here in London, Len Lye was doing new films, new concepts in films when Andy Warhol was learning to speak, and he's still doing them.

BBC-TV: But you can't negate Warhol!

WE: No, you're right, but we can't base a movement around him either.

BBC-TV: All right then, what are you trying to do here?

WE: We're trying to develop a broad-based structure for communication among film-makers outside the normal commercial channels. A place where film-makers can come and exchange ideas, where new films can be exhibited without censorship, where certain film-making equipment can be pooled for the film-maker who can't afford to buy or rent it.

BBC-TV: Are you going to help him raise money for making films?

WE: No, but we're going to help him save money in making films, and more important than that, we're going to help him make money on the distribution end. For too many years the normal distribution of films has been a closed world where the film-maker has received the short end of the stick when it comes to his share of the rentals. We intend to change this on distribution. All a film-maker has to do is let us have a print of his film for our catalogue, tell us the rental he requires, and when it's rented, he'll get 50% of the gross amount. We don't intend to pad any expense sheet and take money from him off the top as so many commercial distributors do.

BBC-TV: Are you then going into competition with the commercial film distributors?

WE: Yes and no. Yes, in that we're offering films for rental to non-theatrical groups. No, in that we will have no contract from the film-maker other than his word that he wants us to handle the film. And at any time he can withdraw the film, and he can always enter into an arrangement with a regular commercial distributor. The main point is that this is a movement of film-makers, and

New Sub Rates

The new rates are:—
FREEDOM only (per year)
£1 10s. (\$4.50) surface mail
£2 16s. (\$8.00) airmail
ANARCHY only (unchanged) (per year)
£1 6s. (\$3.50) surface mail
£2 7s. (\$7.00) airmail
COMBINED SUBSCRIPTION
FREEDOM & ANARCHY (per year)
£2 10s. (\$7.50) surface mail both
£4 15s. (\$12.50) airmail both
FREEDOM (airmail) &
ANARCHY (seamail)
£3 17s. (\$10.50) (per year)

that they must have the utmost freedom of movement and expression.

BBC-TV: How many people do you estimate are making such films here in London?

WE: At the moment we have more than 40 film-maker members and we expect to have many more within a month or so, after word gets out that we exist. I might add, that we welcome members from all over England and Ireland, and that we also hope to have an exchange with the New York Film-makers' Co-op, when we have their films here and they have our films there. We have also made contact with film-makers in Holland who will be sending us films, and also Paris and Poland. This is an international movement—a free exchange of ideas through film that crosses national boundaries and economic boundaries such as Capitalist and Communist.

BBC-TV: Surely, you can't avoid political statements?

WE: The individual film-maker might have a statement to make, and we're not going to censor it—but the important thing is that we are not based upon any political movement. And as for audience for our films, we welcome all. For example, we'd love to book some of our films for a showing at Mr. Ted Heath's home. The same goes for Mr. Wilson.

BBC-TV: What of the BFI, aren't they doing the sort of work for new film-makers that you hope to do?

WE: Not really, in that the BFI is part of the Establishment and must, by its very nature, be influenced by the political climate. But by the same token, we are not intending to compete with them, and we welcome any and all help they would like to give us. I might add also that we intend to contact the large film companies like Fox, and Rank, and ask them for money help in our work. The fact that we don't agree with their commercial products all the time doesn't mean that we won't try to 'educate' them in content and new film. They can only benefit from our existence in that we are the proving ground for new film-makers many of whom will some day be under contract to the giants. We also prove many points in film content that they with their large budget films won't gamble on, and if they are smart business men, they'll help us all they can, and we'll take their help, no strings attached.

That pretty well ended our conversation with the public corporation BBC. We asked them if they thought us newsworthy enough for some coverage, etc., and we left it with their hope that we do latch on to an Andy Warhol movie, or perhaps something else that is exciting but not pornographic or in bad taste to be shown to the viewers.

From our point of view the whole conversation raised a most interesting question. Why is there so much objection, on so many people's part, to showing a film of love to people watching TV, the love box?

HARVEY MARSHALL MATUSOW.

Porton Demonstration

Dear Sirs,

The Campaign in Oxford University for Nuclear Disarmament is concerned with the ignorance about bacteriological and chemical warfare inside and outside the peace and socialist movements. We have decided to organise a demonstration at the BW Centre at Porton on May 13-14, 1967.

This demonstration will aim to publicise the nature and probable consequences of the research done at Porton, both nationally and in the area of the establishment. We are not visualising civil disobedience, although this could be attempted at a later date.

What we do hope for is originality, with a variety of 'happenings'.

We are putting the date of the demonstration some distance ahead, as it has been suggested that an International Day of Protest Against Germ Warfare might be organised. Demonstrations at establishments similar to Porton, in other parts of Britain and abroad, would help to focus attention on this neglected but vitally important subject.

A lot of work will be required if an ambitious project like this is to be successful. We need help in organising it, and original ideas to be used in the demonstrations. Perhaps any interested groups and individuals could contact me as soon as possible, at my Bromley address (after January 11, 1967, at St. Peter's College, Oxford).

Yours sincerely,
JOHN KING.
30 Stanley Road,
Bromley, Kent.

'Bathe in Sea Not a Right but a Privilege'—Guardian

LORD JUSTICE HARMAN, in the Court of Appeal, ruled that there is no general right of access to the foreshore of England, the Englishman's only right is to pass over it in boats when it is covered by water, however in Devon and Cornwall there is also a right to access for beachcombing. (How about the St. Ives beatniks?) The Registrar-General calculates in the 1970's the immigration rate to Britain may be halved.

WILLY BRANDT, the Social Democrat anti-Nazi joined a coalition cabinet with Dr. Kiesinger (ex-Nazi) and Herr Strauss (ex-banner of *Der Spiegel*). Men in Zurich again voted that women would not have the vote. Australia and New Zealand again returned Governments supporting the war in Vietnam. The Dutch have managed at last to form a new Cabinet. The *Financial Times* points out that Dutch coalition Governments 'are never entered into before elections, a voter who supports any of the three major denominational parties has no idea whether he is helping to strengthen a future coalition with a more Left-wing or more Right-wing tendency, while the supporters of the Protestant parties cannot know whether their party will choose to govern or to go in opposition'. The *Financial Times* claims that there is 'widespread disenchantment in Holland with the organization and operation of the political system and with many of the people who work it'. The correspondent's report is headed, 'A plague on all your parties'.

ACCORDING TO THE *Daily Mail*, the student council at Oxford, emboldened by the success of the Provo-type white bicycle scheme (initiated by Oxford anarchists), plans to put 1,500 white bicycles on the city streets. The *Guardian* correspondent reports an interest by Oxford City Council in the scheme. The BBC New York correspondent, Anthony Wigham, reported on the Home Service interest in a Detroit housing estate which plans to give tenants the right to a car when they want it, this involves provision of 2,000 cars for 4,000 houses. Another US plan is for car-users to buy a car-key which entitles them to pick up a city car on the outskirts of town, use, and leave it where they like.

A WRITER IN THE *Daily Mirror* commenting on Transport Minister Barbara Castle's complaint that she was stuck in a traffic jam for two hours. 'Why the

devil doesn't she do what she is always telling other folk to do: use public transport?'

MR. JENKINS, the Home Secretary, said that 90% of the indictable offences committed in 1965 were minor crimes. Most could have been prevented.

A YOUTH OF 19 was acquitted at the Old Bailey on charges of indecently assaulting one woman, indecently assaulting and attempting to rape another woman three days later, and also of robbing the second woman of £1 with violence. He had been in custody for three weeks and whilst he was in custody five similar assaults were committed by a man answering the same description as the accused. The second man was now in custody and under the circumstances it had been decided to offer no evidence against the first man. The Home Secretary introduced the Criminal Justice Bill which aims to cut the prison population by 10% by fines, suspended sentences and parole. It also 'brings in majority verdicts for juries'.

FURTHER DOUBTS WERE CAST ON THE assumption that a lone man shot Kennedy when the Governor of Texas gave his doubts that the bullet which killed the President was the one which wounded the Governor. The BBC are buying the film *Rush to Judgement* by Mark Lane for future TV screening.

DER SPIEGEL REPORTED THAT GEORGE Blake had escaped to East Berlin. . . . THE MORNING STAR reports George Brown as praising Bonn leaders, when leaving for Moscow. It calls him 'Bourbon Brown of the FO' and misquotes 'learns nothing, forgets everything'. Surely Comrade you've forgotten . . . it's 'forgets nothing' for the Bourbons at least. The *Morning Star* (or the Catholic publishers) so far forgot themselves as to advertise in the Christmas books three Catholic books by Sheed and Ward: *Catholics and the Left* (Slant Manifesto); *The New Left Church*; and *Christians and World Freedom*.

THE SOCIETY OF JESUS' (Jesuits) 31st General Congregation issued a statement pledging obedience to the Pope and emphasising 'the importance of mature, responsible commitment by the members of the Society to both the common search for wise decision and to the effective implementation of such decisions when the superior has taken it'. A

statement by the Jesuits on Christian unity expresses 'regret for past mistakes by members of the order that may have offended other Christians or have hindered the restoration of Christian unity'. A writer to *The Universe and Catholic Times* criticizes the paper for publicising Fr. Teilhard de Chardin because the Holy Office said (referring to his books) 'Leaving aside any judgement insofar as the positive sciences are concerned, it is sufficiently manifest that in the matter of philosophy and theology the aforementioned works are full of such ambiguities, or rather grave errors, as to offend against Catholic doctrine'. The Editor replied, 'We assume Mr. Lynch [the writer] is referring to our recent pictorial feature on Fr. Teilhard. This was written by a staff journalist who confined himself to the facts'. Elsewhere in the same paper Christopher Hollis reviews a book on Franz Jaegerstatter, an Austrian Catholic conscientious objector, who was beheaded by the Nazis for refusal to serve in the German Army. Christopher Hollis quotes a Bishop (unnamed) who had forbidden articles about Jaegerstatter in the diocesan newspaper and said, 'I consider the greater heroes to be those exemplary Catholic men . . . who fought and died in heroic fulfilment of duty'. Catholic Bishops in the US have decreed that it is no longer obligatory to abstain from meat on Fridays. However, the Bishops urged Catholics to observe fish on Fridays by free choice. In Formosa (Taiwan), Hong Kong and Macao, the Bishops have also abolished the obligation of Friday abstinence. This decision reverses a July directive which re-established the abstinence obligation after six years of dispensation.

THE BBC FEEL that their Xmas TV production of *Alice in Wonderland* is unfit for children. Discussion has been taking place in New York as to whether it is legal to kill a Martian. 'As things stand now,' said Dr. Graham Hughes, Professor of Legal Philosophy and Criminal Law at New York University, 'an alien person (from outer space) would not have protection from the law.'

JON QUIXOTE.

Please Clear This by Xmas!

WEEKS 46, 47, and 48,
DECEMBER 3, 1966
Expenses: 48 weeks at £80: £3840
Income: Sales and Subs.: £2761

DEFICIT: £1079

Derham: J.B. 6/-; Enfield: M.S. & J.S. 3/-; London, N.1: M.K. 5/-; London, W.5: A.D.* 2/-; Reading: G.R. 2/6; London, N.W.1: 6/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Oxford: Anon* 5/-; London, N.W.1: H.L. 5/-; Cornwall: D.T. 3/6; Hartfield: O.M. 4/1; Cambridge: M.P. 2/-; London, W.11: M.G. 10/11; London, N.7: D.C. 5/-; Cardiff: G.K. 4/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; Aberdeen: I.M. 2/6; Cambridge, Mass.: J.S. 6/-; Lewis: R.G. 7/6; Northolt: Anarchist Group* 3/6; London, N.1: P.D. 4/4; London, N.1: M.K. 5/-; London: Anon 2/6; London, S.W.7: J.H. 2/-; London, S.E.3: J. & T.C. £1/18/-; Hyde Park: W.L. 10/-; Taita, N.Z.: C.R. 8/-; Hove: H.C. 10/6; London, N.7: P.C. £1/4/-; London, S.W.4: A.S. £5/-; London, N.10: J.A. £1/8/-; Berkeley, California: R.E. £1/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; London, S.W.15: M.G. £1/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Coventry: L.H. 18/-; Toronto: R.D. 10/-; London, W.6: F.B. 8/-; Slough: R.W. 6d.; Wellington, N.Z.: J.M. 4/-; Leeds: J.J. 4/-; London, W.3: G.M. 8/-; London, N.1: M.K. 5/-; Cardiff: Anarchist Group 3/-; London, W.5: R.P. 3/-; Oxford: Anon* 5/-; Los Angeles: J.E. £1/6/-; St. Cloud, U.S.A.: M.A. 10/6; London, S.W.9: P.S. 6/3; Sheffield: Anarchist Group 5/6; Cardiff: Anarchist Group 6/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; Leicester: P.G. 3/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Madison, U.S.A.: H.H. 5/8; Oxford: Anon* 5/-; Bury St. Edmunds: C.P.* 5/-; Belfast: W.G. 3/6; Rekenham: N.T. 14/-; Reigate: W.G. 2/-; London, N.W.1: C.D. 10/-; New York: T.A. 17/6; Dartford: J.J. 6/6; Devon: M.D. 4/-; London: N.S. 5/6; London, W.5: A.D. 5/3; Ealing: Anarchist Group 5/-.

TOTAL: £33 3 6
Previously Acknowledged: £25 18 4

1966 Total to Date: £1019 1 10

*Denotes Regular Contributor
Gift of Books—London, N.1: M.W.K.; London, S.E.23: J.B.; London, W.14: A.M.

Death of a Movement

AT THE ANNUAL talkers' orgy of the National YCND held in London last weekend, the mood which predominated was one of impotent defeatism created chiefly by the now familiar, but eternally pathetic, faith possessed by the majority of those present that Harold Wilson and his ilk are just like you and I—to wit interested in humanity.

This was emphasised right from the start in the opening remarks of the retiring chairman—who stubbornly clung to reformist illusions in his insistence upon pressurising the 'top' rather than communicating with the merely mortal scrubbers.

Apparently the number of groups has increased; even more apparently the amount and value of activity is non-existent. It was also announced that YCND had a thousand 'registered supporters'.

Chairman Mervyn Rice outlined the past year's activities. The theme of his speech was 'UNITY'—at times it seemed even at the cost of principles. Unity with the YPV, YCL, YL, C of 100, PPU, YS, UNO (who?), and the National Association for the Promotion of Sino-Eskimo Underwater Sexual Perversions.

There was a pathetic emphasis throughout on the need for political victory. The serving of this sickening soup was aided and abetted by Tony McCarthy who urged YCND to maintain YCND's own individual voice. He was not so forthcoming as to enlighten the somewhat bemused conference as to precisely what this individual voice was.

Earlier Rice had directly contradicted this by stating that YCND ought not to press its dubious individuality too much.

The now familiar 'politics of the long haul was flogged to death as an excuse for total apathy and a pathetic lack of imagination.

On Vietnam the debate was between the pro-NLF elements and those who thought life more important than abstractions. West Ham Anarchists, masquerading for the occasion under the pseudonym of West Ham YCND, were gallantly holding the flag of libertarianism and conscience aloft.

West Ham proposed the following resolution:—

'It is impossible to remove the bomb until the machinery of the state that produces it has been destroyed. We should oppose all bombs—East and West.'

It was defeated by 34 votes to 10 with four abstentions.

Conference had not the courage to accept the only analysis that would be effective in achieving their objectives—the anarchist analyses. PADDY FIELDS.

We Will Fast at Christmas

SIX YOUNG PEOPLE, five boys and one girl, ages ranging from 16 to 22, are planning to hold a public fast at Christmas, as they state 'to attract people's attention to the ever-continuing injustice and cruelty in this world.'

They are living in the town of Haarlem, in the Netherlands, and want to hold their demonstration in the centre of their town. The fasters do not want to support any party policy; although some of them have anarchist leanings, they even do not want to profess themselves anarchists.

During their fast, which will last from midnight on Christmas Eve till midnight on Boxing Day, they will take absolutely no nourishment whatsoever, only drink some hot tea or coffee, without milk or sugar. But one of them may have to take, on doctor's prescription, vitamin pills.

Some comrades will take care of the six during their action, and also maintain contacts with the press and (they hope) TV for them. A doctor will examine their state of health beforehand, and be on call in case of necessity. Both before and during Christmas extensive leafletting will take place in the town.

Anyone wishing to express support of the action should write to: Kerstvasten 1966, Cruquiusstraat 10, Haarlem, The Netherlands.

King Attacks Printworkers

THOUSANDS OF WORDS have been poured into the Royal Commission on Trades Unions and Employers' Associations, so it is no surprise that the International Publishing Corporation (IPC) should add its twopennyworth. Mr. Frank Rogers, managing director of IPC, was chosen to do the honours. He claimed that retreats by management in the past had undermined the power of senior union officials. The implication being that militant chapels had taken some action against the management; management had agreed to the demands before the full-time officials could effect a compromise. Mr. Rogers went on to claim that only in recent years when chapels have been forced back on claims, and management have insisted on going higher in the union, have union officials been given the opportunity of exerting their influence. Mr. Rogers cited a case where a chapel had a militant FOC for a number of years,

there were stoppages until a statesmanlike FOC was voted into office. Trouble ceased and the labour force was halved with his co-operation. Rogers then issued the punchline! He said he thought it would be a good thing if the Father of the Chapel (shop steward) became a full-time official *not subject to being voted out of office from below.*

IPC do not like FOCs they can't 'buy', the maxim being 'if you can't buy them, then strangle them with full-time officials'. Fortunately this does not always work, because either the official supports the rank and file or he has eyes on the next round of union elections.

Chapel militancy and strength is the whole basis of a printing union, break that and there is nothing. IPC are not fools, they know what they are about. In the negotiations regarding the *Sun*, the management insisted that senior union officials be present during the negotiations. The *Sun*, it is claimed, is in a serious financial crisis, therefore IPC informed the workers that if they wanted the publication to continue, they would have to accept drastic economies, with particular reference to 'staffing'. It is pretty obvious the *Sun* will fold at a time opportune to IPC, but the main point is that

IPC will attempt to use the new 'economic staffing' of the *Sun* as a yardstick for the future.

An estimated £11,500,000 profit for this year is not enough for IPC, so the necessary pruning is being attempted within the Cecil King empire.

Included in the IPC memorandum to the Commission was the idea that new legislation was needed to 'redress the balance where unions are too strong and where they are too weak'. One can imagine the type of legislation IPC has in mind, the type that would encourage tabby-cat company unions—where the managements 'take the workers on', but do it with a smile and a pat on the back.

The attempt to break up rank and file organisation is not peculiar to the printing industry, it is happening throughout industry under the leadership of a Labour Government. Printworkers are fortunate in that in the majority of cases Chapel (rank and file) organisation is established. But the future for printworkers is bleak indeed, unless the rank and file act in unison against the attacks being made on their organisation, wages and conditions.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

Contact Column

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

Free University. The Creative University of S.E. London is currently being set up for courses in radical, progressive and unconventional subjects, and invites all intellectuals, artists, social reformers as students or instructors. Please send 2/6 blank PO for details. Box 45.

Work. Urgent; young couple, both graduates, seek any work in which they can be together (for personal reasons this is more important than the money). John Tittensor, 103a Camden Road, London, N.W.1.

Chris and Sandy Broad, also Geoff Nicholls. Please contact Sally Mitchison, 6 Dovecot Road, Edinburgh, 12.

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.

Soho Football Club. Footballers needed for Sunday mornings. Contact Harry Marsh, TUD 1615. Evenings.

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

Accommodation wanted. Tourist accommodation wanted. Australian woman, travelling in Europe needs CHEAP accommodation in London for approximately four weeks in February, 1967. Prefer relatively central location. Would also like companion for travels in March. Box 43.

Accommodation: Bristol anarchist sympathiser, studious, responsible, teetotaler, needs bedsitter in Bristol. Clifton, Redlands, Hotwell area preferred. Large house. Box No. 44.

Accommodation. Fair bedsitter and separate kitchen, basement, own entrance. Camden Town. £5. Suit quiet couple, married or not. John Tittensor, 103a Camden Road, N.W.1. Any time.

S. E. Parker Speaks! On 'The Philosophy of Egoism'. Sunday, December 11, 7.30 p.m., at the 'Marquis of Granby', 2 Rathbone Street, London, W.1 (Nr. Goodge Street Station). London Individualist Anarchists.

SWF Social. In support of FIJL Defence Fund. Saturday, December 17, 8 p.m., at 'Lucas Arms' (upstairs room), 245 Grays Inn Road, W.C.1. Admission 2s. 6d. M.C.: Desmond MacDonald.

Fund Raising Party. In Aid of the Easter Anarchist Meeting 1967, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Saturday, December 17, 1966. 13 Savernake Road, London, N.W.3. Admission five shillings (and bring a bottle).

If you wish to make contact let us know.

Hamstringing the Unions

TRADE UNIONS and the Trades Union Congress have been in the past and are still today criticised for being conservative. This is of course true, but the national press and politicians who make these criticisms do so not in order to improve the trade union movement, but to hamstring it. They say it has to be brought up to date to suit present-day needs.

As Anarchists, we ourselves are critical of both the trade unions and the TUC. It is not that they should be brought up to date, but that they should serve the interests of their members more ably. Their function is to improve the social and economic position of their members and as such there is nothing revolutionary in that object.

In recent years there has been a certain impatience on the part of the critics of the trade unions. Employers and many politicians say that they (the trade unions) are responsible for the continual inflation of the post-war years, but what they really mean is that, due to economic circumstances and considerable militancy by members at the place of work, the unions have become too powerful.

The Government and the employers feel that changes are necessary to curb this power. The present legislated wage freeze has partly achieved this and other ideas are expected to emerge from the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations.

The TUC in their oral evidence before the Commission this week said they are opposed to any legal changes. Mr. Greene, the General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen and one of the TUC representatives, told the Chairman of the Commission, Lord Donovan, 'I should be much happier—with great respect to you, my Lord—if we did not have anything to do with the law at all.'

Some unions, mainly the 'white-collar' ones, have told the Commission that they favour legislation to compel the employers to negotiate with unions. Another representative of the TUC, Mr. Feather, said they felt suspicious of even this type of legislation, which on the face of it did favour the unions. 'We have never been aware of anyone conferring advantages on a trade union without extracting some price.' He felt the 'price' for the closed shop and 100% trade union membership enforced by law would be too high and that the present

method of voluntary membership was better.

On the other hand, the TUC would not be against legislation 'which would prevent an employer from taking away the citizens' right to join a trade union'. As the TUC spokesman said: 'Unions are not against change as such, but they are extremely sceptical of the value and practicability of changes devised for and imposed upon them by outsiders.'

TOWARDS CENTRALISATION

While this healthy attitude by the TUC towards legislation is welcome, it must be remembered that the changes that have recently taken place in its function, such as the vetting of wage claims, are all based on the present trend towards more centralised authority. The Government would like to see the TUC, the CBI and itself acting as a tripartite on prices and incomes, but this has not gone down very well with either the TUC or the CBI. If anything, the mutual fear of State intervention has drawn these two together.

However, the CBI, like the TUC, is also moving towards more centralised authority and this is what the Government is after. It does not want every union, large or small, bargaining in with its wage claims each year or manufacturers putting up prices when they think they will. The central control also ties in with the trend in the mergers and amalgamations which are taking place in industry. It is these bigger units of production that will require more centralised planning.

While the anarchist would favour decentralisation, the trends in the present-day mixed economy are in the opposite direction. The trade union leaders, if anything, welcome this, especially if the centralisation is State controlled. But whatever form it takes, the workers in the industries concerned are faced with a more powerful employer. Amalgamations of unions into industrially based ones will not necessarily solve this or any other problems for its members, for they will always exist in a capitalist system. Only when there is a conscious desire on the part of these members for something different, for a free, egalitarian society, based not on competition and profits, but on co-operation and needs, will the real problems start to be solved.

In my opinion it is our job, as Anarchists, to create this desire and so strengthen the revolutionary conscience of trade unionists.

P.T.

Freedom For Workers' Control

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Quote 'The Meanest Men in Britain'

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER the *People*, that has so many times been instrumental in closing so many brothels in the interest of gracious living, decided that the over-riding moral consideration of the week demanded that they turn their wet eye on the behaviour of the 28 working men who, in defiance of all industrial conventions, were doing their work in strict observance to the rules laid down by their employer. Sharing the front-page headline with a Mr. Thomas, of 'I hit a GHOST on the A38', these 28 employees of J. E. Hangers Ltd. were publicly blackguarded as THE MEANEST MEN IN BRITAIN for allowing one of the most disgraceful episodes in the history of industrial disputes to continue for another week. The firm's spokesman took time off from weeping to cry that *I think the men must have gone bloody mad*, while Charlie Loughlin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Health Ministry, appealed to the men in the name of humanity to stop obeying the employer's rule book.

I feel that Charlie and J. E. Hangers Ltd. will finally be forced by the sheer volume of their own hypocritical abuse to refer the whole matter to the United Nations for when a national newspaper talks of one of the most disgraceful episodes in the history of industrial disputes and a Government spokesman makes an appeal in the name of humanity then this matter must surely have reached a stage when the conscience of the world must be consulted. Yet I know, Charlie knows and those who drew up the rule book know that they and I are all talking canting crap for what is happening is that a small group of skilled men are defying the Government's wage freeze when their employer and the Health Ministry have decided to enforce it.

The situation is very simple. Twenty-eight artificial limb fitters, working at a private factory adjacent to Roehampton Hospital, after lengthy negotiations had been granted an increase of £2 a week payable from May 1, 1966. The employer felt that with the Government wage freeze in operation they could not in good conscience pay this wage increase. The men accepted this and accepted a vague proposal under which the wage increase would be frozen for six months and then paid in November. This was an agreement similar to that of the doctors working a few hundred yards away but come the day of glory and J. E. Hangers Ltd. refused to pay the 28 men this previously agreed wage increase.

I myself have little use for these 28 workmen among the 777 men working at this factory for they are part of Clive Jenkins's smug high-caste supervisory clique cocooned within the ASSET union but the issue that they personally are snivelling about is a matter that affects every working man. So, despite any ASSET attitude to us, the great unwashed, we in our own self interest must support them. Efforts by the men's union, the Association of Supervisory Staffs, Executives and Technicians and J. E. Hangers Ltd. have inevitably failed. The union take the view that there is no dispute with the employer for, cry the union, the employer is willing to pay the wage increase but cannot because of Government policy so, cry the union the work to the rule book is unofficial.

The Establishment press has not been slow to use this situation for its anti-working-class crusade. Emotional jargon little comrade? Normally the men attend to 500 patients a week but, by obeying the employer's rules, they can

only attend to 400 patients a week. The result of this is that more than 900 artificial limbs are waiting to be fitted, with a backlog of 1,000 unfortunate people waiting for appointments.

However, the simple and fundamental fact is that every employer issues a rule book, not for it to be obeyed but as an escape clause in the event of a minor or major accident. Because, should this happen, the employer can rightly point to the rule book and claim in all good faith that if the workman had obeyed the rule book nothing would have gone wrong.

It is unfortunate that one national newspaper should have made a reference to the doctors' agreement. Because, within the space of a few hundred yards, the Establishment's approach to this simple wage 'squabble' offers itself as a classic example of the class approach to the same problem. The workmen employed by J. E. Hangers Ltd. are denounced as agents of social immorality for continuing to work within the employer's self-created safety regulations. Ex-servicemen, nurses and patients are quoted to reinforce the view that these workmen are contemptible people willing to let innocent people suffer to gain their own selfish ends. However, no one doubts that, when this wage 'squabble' is ended, these high-caste workmen will resume their normal method of work in that they will disobey the rule book; for the greater good financially if not ethically.

Yet . . . when doctors queue on the public pavements to book their passage for highly paid jobs within the United States, to help replace those American doctors shipped out East to the American war zones, not one single cry comes from our national press regarding the under-staffed wards left as a result of these actions. Doctors who have spent years learning their trade and have never spent one day bothering to practise in the interest of those who made it possible walk to the nearest American medical recruiting office. Not one finger is raised in admonition—for it is the peculiarity of our society's moral attitude in that it only applies to the broad mass of the proletariat.

The middle-class owner of a milkshop could sell his shop to the first spiv betting syndicate to make him an offer and put up his shutters that very same day and then be congratulated on his financial acumen. But let his milk roundsman threaten to strike for one single day one week before the sale and the moral condemnation of our society will rain down on the unfortunate man's head.

The middle class creates the moral codes for their society and enforces them in their own self interest. The whole of our society is a flagrant rejection of our proclaimed Christian morality. Let us accept that all moral teachings are artificial and that in our own universal self interest we find our best interests served by accepting the Christian morality.

If this is so, and if the *People* newspaper, Charlie of HMG, ASSET and J. E. Hangers Ltd. hold us to this moral teaching then let us judge them by that same morality. By that test they fail. If we, who stand in judgement on these 20th-century Pharisees, forever quoting the tablets of the law yet demanding that only we, the common people, shall manifest the spirit. If we condemn these people let it be by the very morality that they demand that we the working class shall practise.

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