

FREEDOM

Anarchist Weekly **6d**

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Students of the World Unite

IT IS USUAL to dismiss British students from the category of revolutionaries or even rebels. Their regular manifestations of revolt against the establishment seem to be confined to rag-days and hoaxes. However, recent events have made necessary some reevaluation of this position. The situation at London School of Economics seems highly complex, which is perhaps highly appropriate to that institution. It could be argued that protests against an unpopular appointment could be an infringement of his civil liberties. It has never been laid down that students have the right to determine who shall teach them, they have very little say in the self-government of their colleges and universities and even now the Exchequer wants supervision of university budgets.

To bedevil the whole situation there have been the usual struggles for political power in the students' unions. A Trotskyite faction has been expelled, and the new Radical Student Alliance is under suspicion of Communist trends.

However the students have officially decided to go on a one day strike on February 22. Marshall Colman writes from Keele:

'The strike is planned to coincide with other similar strikes and is to draw attention to, and to campaign against, the increase in fees for overseas students. The Department of Education and Science has decided to increase these fees from £70 to £250. Articulate feeling here is much against this, but one feels that it's probably only the minority who are concerned. A petition collected a few hundred signatures. On February 1 a delegation of Keele students lobbied their MPs with several other students. A letter has been produced for students to send to their MPs calling on them to oppose the D. of E. and S.

The motion to strike was passed at a Union General Meeting, the sovereign body of the Union in which all students can take part. In fact the motion was an emergency one and the attendance poor as it came up at the second session of a UGM, the first being taken up mainly with amendments to the Constitution to put into effect the decision in principle (previously taken) to disaffiliate from the NUS. The amendments were, incidentally, rejected, failing as they did to get the requisite two-thirds majority. At the UGM discussing the strike the feeling of the meeting was completely behind the motion. It was moved that a strike committee be set up immediately

Freedom Selling. Saturday, February 25, 7 p.m. Meet in forecourt Charing Cross Railway Station for West-End FREEDOM selling. Organised by NLADG.



CAN YOU HELP?

to look into ways of making it most effective. Motions to refer the motion to a larger UGM failed as time was too pressing and as it was felt that everyone had had the chance to attend.

The strike is not against the University, but will take the form of non-attendance at lectures and tutorials. It is hoped that all sports fixtures will be cancelled, and when, at yesterday's forum with the candidates for next year's Presidency, it was suggested by one candidate that the permanent Union staff should be on strike (e.g. barman, porter, snack bar staff, cleaners), the audience showed their approval. Non-attendance is the negative aspect of the strike. Its aim is simply to free us for a day of very active propaganda in the area of Newcastle and the Potteries against the increase in fees (which at this moment strikes me as being in contravention of the Prices and Incomes Act...).

At Manchester University the Vice-Chancellor has come out wholeheartedly behind the idea of a student strike, and has told the students that if they do anything, for heaven's sake, do it thoroughly and not half-heartedly. I don't know yet what Keele's VC, Dr. Taylor, thinks. We'll probably know soon. I believe it's being considered that the staff also make it clear that they are on strike.

So far so good, but meanwhile Libyan students have carried out a hunger-strike for several days in their Embassy in protest against the political situation in Libya. They were forcibly ejected from the Embassy and they are quite likely to have their scholarships withdrawn.

In Spain, too, students have been demonstrating and the voice of protest has been raised, in of all places, Russia.

British students should realize, as they have done in their spontaneous outburst against increased fees for overseas students, that an injury to one is an injury to all and should come out of their academic shell for real academic freedom and independence. D. LITT.

REPRESSION IN PERU :

Dear Friends,

On January 21, a committee was formed from representatives of a wide range of left-wing organisations to help the victims of the recent repressions in Peru. The most outstanding case concerns Hugo Blanco and his comrades, who, after three years in jail waiting trial, were finally brought before a military court and given sentences of up to 25 years. Moreover, in the case of Blanco himself, the prosecution has appealed to the higher judicial bodies for the death sentence to be substituted for the term of imprisonment.

Blanco and his comrades were responsible for organising peasants in the Andean highlands into a peasant union which carried out a struggle against the landlords and campaigned for agrarian reform, a very necessary thing in an area where the land workers are virtual serfs and where there are many cases on record of these people being 'paid' less than a penny a day, plus a meagre ration of food (mostly grain and beans). Only recently, after the struggle led by Blanco, has the government thought fit to introduce a minimum wage law (which in fact is being widely disregarded).

Blanco and his comrades were arrested

Which Road do we take?

EASTER will shortly be upon us and the thoughts of anarchists heavily turn to the sad ceremonials which like some ancient folkrites have become linked with the fertility-solstice-human sacrifice which take place at this time. This year we are faced with three choices of venue or constitutional and unconstitutional exercise. First (in historical order) is the only genuine, the only original CND march (or has something changed?) from Ruislip (Easter Sunday) - Chiswick-Acton-Trafalgar Square plus Easter Saturday a mass moving picket past American Embassy, Foreign Office in Whitehall, and South Vietnamese Embassy (eight miles). Secondly (arranged by the National Committee of 100, convener Peter Cadogan), is a three-day demonstration (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) at the Copenacre military complex. This is in the area (about ten square miles of it) around Corsham and the Bath Road. Thirdly, the London Committee of 100 is organizing a four-day march from Aldermaston to London.

Freedom Press was invited to send a delegate to a meeting for supporting organisations for the CND Three-Day Easter Demonstration and reports as follows:

'The meeting was attended by about 30-40 people, which seemed sparse by earlier CND standards according to the circulated attendance sheet, describing attendee's organizations. CND groups seemed to be lacking, attendance was from groups such as Peace in Vietnam Committees, Middlesex Council for Peace, London Co-operative Society Political Committee, YCND, Youth for Peace in Vietnam, Young Mothers' Organization (?), Friends' Peace Committee and two genuine delegates from the Communist Party.

The theme of the march was to be Vietnam and no especial emphasis on nuclear disarmament except insofar as the continuance of the Vietnam war made nuclear war more possible. There was no comment from the meeting on the theme, which was not surprising for it had been a conference decision.

Details were given (and worked out) of the embassy picket which it was variously estimated would take between two and two-and-a-half hours.

As far as organization was concerned, there was a shortage of Elsan (portable lavatory) volunteers but the march (notch one more up for anarchism!) was "practically now self-organizing", as one of the marshals said, so there was not much detailed work to be done.

So far it was planned to have three speakers in the Square (unnamed as yet), but Mike Kustow and Adrian Mitchell were still involved in US and would not be available to arrange an entertainment.

It was discovered that the leaflets already printed did not show the exact location of the march assembly. It will in fact not start at the US Command HQ, but at Northolt Underground Station.

The delicate question was raised as to the behaviour of the anarchists last year. An optimistic lady from Hampstead suggested that the anarchists might be mollified if they had a representative in the lead group. It was pointed out that no one could "represent" the anarchists and furthermore any anarchist who joined the "lead group" would *ipso facto* be disowned.

I pointed out that the dissatisfaction of the anarchists last year came from the fact that they were promised a speaker but did not get one. Olive Gibbs pointed out that the conference had never promised an anarchist speaker and furthermore they got one and were still dissatisfied. In any case it was impossible for all organizations represented on the march to have their own speaker.

Slogans on posters for the march will be decided nearer the date as the situation in Vietnam is very fluid.

It was undecided as yet whether to put out a special letter backing the march signed by Trade Unionists. It had already been decided to send one out signed by MPs.

An advertisement was to appear in the national press bearing signatures of prominent people and calling attention to the necessity of protesting against the war in Vietnam. This would be paid for by individual signatories paying £1 a head and was being sponsored independently of CND.

It was suggested that groups could state their point of view on the march by booking space (at £5) for an advertisement in *Sanity*. This may have been a slight joke at anarchist protests at not having their own speaker.

The London Committee of 100 is organising a four-day march starting from Aldermaston on Easter Friday. The route will take in Burghfield and the RSG6 between Reading and Slough. It will join the CND march on Monday in Trafalgar Square. For all details comrades should contact Sue Abrahams, secretary of the London Committee.

A 'Break with War' demonstration is to take place in Corsham-Copenacre military complex (some 10 square miles of Army, Navy and Air Force installations). Bristol anarchists have reconnoitred the area and produced a leaflet, and we are told

that the authorities are 'very sensitive about the place'.

It could be suggested that Demonstration No. 1 (CND) is only of use to sell literature and distribute leaflets. Having made our point last year, even barracking seems to be a waste of time. Demonstration No. 2 (National Committee of 100) may involve civil disobedience and unfortunately it seems too ambitious a venture, clashing in dates as it does, to draw the guaranteed support it really needs to make it effective. But since it is a demonstration directed against the State apparatus theoretically it is the one we should support. Demonstration No. 3 will give an opportunity to challenge the monolithic structure that CND has become and recapture some of the old Aldermaston zest.

M.H.

DEMO AT THE CARLTON

GEORGE ORWELL'S *Animal Farm* closes with a dinner between the pigs and the farmers in which both become identical. Art became reality last Sunday when Kosygin climaxed his tour of Britain by lunch at the Carlton Club with the Tory leaders.

The week before, one Nestor Makhno (of Highgate Cemetery) had issued an appeal on behalf of the Sons and Daughters of the Russian Revolution for a ceremony to mark this noteworthy event. In response to this call about 50 anarchists gathered outside the Carlton Club. Banners displayed included 'All Power to the People', 'End Capitalism East and West' (in Russian) and a satirical true-blue Tory flag with a hammer and sickle in one corner.

The subject of the demonstration was late arriving and the time was spent issuing leaflets to passers-by and the sporadic explosion of balloons marked 'the people'. Police objected to a banner reading 'The Working Class Can Kiss His Arse, He's Got Joe Stalin's Job At Last'.

In response to this the offending word was blacked out to leave a blank rather more suggestive than the original word.

The first of the dignitaries to arrive was Quentin Hogg riding his bike which he chained to the railings amid jeers and cries of 'kill the pig' from readers of *Lord of the Flies*. Edward Heath arrived some time later and flashed his smile in our direction.

By this time others present included several Ukrainian exiles and a well dressed man in a strange hat, halfway between a topper and a stetson who carried a banner reading 'Ban the Sodomy Bill Before God Destroys Britain'. (Afficionados of demonstrations may have noticed his presence at the Tory Rhodesia rally last month.) Meanwhile bewildered Tories surveyed the scene from the windows and a possible gesture of solidarity from the proletariat came when a waitress waved to us from an upper window.

Meanwhile several police cordons had built up and finally Kosygin arrived behind a screen of motor-cycle cops.

On his emergence from his car he was greeted by a loud chorus of boos and a fusillade of bangs on empty tin-plates. The wheel had come full circle. In 1917 workers and soldiers had stormed the palaces where their rulers were feasting. In 1967 the man who claims to be the heir of these workers and peasants, was himself feasting in the banquetting hall while the lumpen-proletariat howled on the other side of the police cordons.

After Kosygin's hurried disappearance into the interior of the Carlton we melted away into various cafés. However a group of comrades returned later to find the pavement opposite the Carlton deserted except for a knot of Ukrainian nationalists and Sodomy Bill. In spite of this there were still enough of us to raise a boo for him on his re-emergence when, we noticed, the Heath smile was looking distinctly strained.

Practically invisible behind the cordons, Kosygin was whisked into a car which drove off speedily to yet another vultures' feast, this time at Chequers.

ROGER SANDELL.

FREE HUGO BLANCO!

in the wave of repression launched by the police and the army against the peasants in this area. They had been too successful for the liking of the landowners and hundreds were killed, wounded and imprisoned in the military operations carried out to subdue them. Workers and students throughout Peru have protested against this brutal treatment of the peasants and against the imprisonment of peasant union leaders and the moves to execute Blanco.

Our committee is organising a march in London to the Peruvian Embassy on Sunday, February 19, as an act of solidarity with those in Peru who have been victimised and to encourage other protests to force the release of the political prisoners. We ask for your support: we ask you to join in the demon-

stration, to send resolutions of protest to the Peruvian Embassy and, if possible, to forward to us a donation to help the families of the imprisoned (it will be used exclusively for that purpose).

The demonstration will assemble at 3 p.m. and there will be a short meeting, at which we hope to have the widow of one of those who was killed, before setting out for the Embassy. The place of assembly is Marble Arch (Speakers' Corner). You are invited to bring your own banner.

Yours fraternally,
JOHN EDMUNDS,
Secretary,

The Committee for Solidarity with the Victims of Repression in Peru.

8 Eaton Terrace, S.W.1

ANARCHY 72

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Towards an International Congress

READERS of FREEDOM have been informed in a previous issue that an International Anarchist Congress is being planned and we promised to supply further details. Unfortunately, having read all the communications that have been sent to us by Guy Malouvier of the Preparatory Committee, we are still not in a position to evaluate as to how far the negotiations have progressed. Therefore we are sending all the correspondence and translations to the newly-formed London Federation's secretariat for their further enquiries.

We are, in principle, in favour that such a congress should take place and that it should take place as soon as possible. The preparatory committee has suggested the following agenda:

1. The economic, social and political situation of the countries represented; the situation of the libertarian movement, and the outlook as regards activity and the spreading of libertarian ideas in these countries (delegates' report).
2. Libertarians, the working-class movement, and workers' organisations, national and international.
3. Anarchism and Marxism put to the test of practicality in the 20th century.
4. The ideological, tactical and organisational bases of the Anarchist Federation International.
5. The position of the International in regard to the imperialist blocs and the

vital problems of our time: the struggle against war, against world hunger, against dictatorship, racialism, etc.

6. The delegate of the Iberian Anarchist Federation in exile wishes to raise the following matters:

(a) The attitude of the anarchist movement towards the spread of religion, and ways and means of combating this.

(b) The need for an intensive programme of atheist propaganda, and the pledging of the support of the International to this programme.

7. Formal agreement on unity; formal pledge of specific material support for, and regular collaboration in, international activities.

8. Formation of a group to handle international anarchist relations, with the further task of publishing a regular bulletin providing information and news of general interest to libertarians.

At first glance this looks like a wide-ranging agenda, the only curious matter is that contained in point six. Is 'atheistic propaganda' the most important question our Spanish comrades can think of at the moment?

The Anarchist Federation of Britain is invited to send delegates to the congress. Here another curious fact emerges. In reply to a letter the Preparatory Committee stated: 'Our aim is not to form an International of Anarchists but an Inter-

nation of Federations. This is the only realistic thing to do since the Federations are the only organisations which have expressed the desire to federate on an international scale'. Comrades of the Preparatory Committee ought to be careful not to throw Bakunin out with the bath-water.

The Sebastien Fauré Group also points out that Carrara should not be accepted as the place for the conference because, if it were, the crisis in the Italian Federation would undoubtedly hinder the work of the conference. They suggest that the conference therefore should not take place in Italy.

We are not informed what is the nature of this crisis in the Italian Federation, but as it is the Carrara Federation who is organising the congress we hope that they either resolve their differences or agree to the Sebastien Fauré Group's suggestion.

All these are of course for the AFB to sort out. We are told that the Manchester comrades are meeting on February 25 to discuss whether they are still able to organise the AFB conference, which they have undertaken to arrange for this year. But in the meantime the LFA secretariat will start correspondence with the Preparatory Commission.

The following organisations have agreed to take part: Bulgarian Anarchist Union in exile, the Italian, Dutch, French, Mexican, Belgian, Japanese Federations,

the Brazilian Libertarian Movement, the Cuban Libertarian Movement in exile and Direkte Ation—Germany. The AFB is not so far included. Neither is the Iberian Federation in exile, nor the FIJL. How can there be an international congress of anarchists without the FIJL?

JOHN RETY.

MUJERES-LIBRES LECTURE REPORT

Technocracy and Society

AFTER DEALING BRIEFLY with the various forms of power in any society, Giovanni Baldelli sketched the limited role played in it by various skills and techniques. These only began to act as a dominating force under conditions of limited freedom and with the rise of capitalism of which they were, from the beginning, an inseparable part.

In modern conditions, with the exhaustion of territorial markets and with the present affluence, only technique can create new products and thereby new markets. Swelling its ranks by a downward movement from the privileged classes and from an upward one from the workers, a new class of scientists, engineers, technicians and specialized workers has come into being which does not feel alienated from society, enjoys a sense of fulfilment and knows that the future is its own. Capitalists and workers are gradually disappearing or, at least, ceasing to play a constructive role. Even the State is losing ground to the technicians, not only by increasing dependence on their knowledge and activities, but also by delegating to them many responsibilities and decisions. Particularly favourable to the technicians' class is the present economic tendency towards oligopoly with our particular society and, in the international field, the policy of co-existence.

The political freedom and industrialization of under-developed countries is an additional factor to the increasing importance of the technicians' class. Even in Russia and in the 'popular democracies' the technicians are asserting themselves more and more and showing up the parasitical nature of the State or political class. From a Marxist point of view it is possible to say that if capitalism represents the thesis and the proletariat the antithesis, the synthesis is given by the technocratic society.

Although not organized or even conscious as a class, and although the coercive power of the State is still formidable, the prospects of technocracy's replacing the leading position now held by the State must be considered quite fair as the set of values now permeating our society (science, progress, specialization, team-work and the authority of the expert) serves the interests of the new class and brings increasing discredit on the ideologies on which the present system or systems are based.

S.P.

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Through the Anarchist Press

'Stupendous' and 'unprecedented' may well be the right words, although their precise interpretation may depend on your point of view. The French anarchist monthly *Le Monde libertaire* at any rate, is considerably less impressed than the youth of Camden with the cultural revolution: 'Somewhere at the top something has happened, and a disturbance becomes turmoil; the ludicrous recitation of the works of the prophet gives way to acts that we already know too well from history, acts which lead to the debasement of the human person.

Parading the gigantic portrait of the God was merely ridiculous; driving through the streets men who have been bound, beaten up and covered with filth, is odious.

'All at once the veil is torn away and we see the face of all totalitarian philosophies, of the left or the right. The difference between them is a slim one—about as thick as a Ministry door; and whether a man opts for the right or the left depends on how close he thinks he is to stepping through that door.'

ALGERIA

On December 31 a number of militant workers were arrested. One of them, Amokrane Amirat, is having his defence arranged by his family; it was stated to the defence lawyer that Amirat was finally imprisoned at El Harrache after being tortured for a week in various police stations. Which is nicer for an Algerian: to be tortured by the French, or to get rid of the French and be tortured by his fellow-countrymen?

BELGIUM

At the Arthur Gailly public clinic in

Charleroi some dozens of people (the exact number is unknown) died between March 1965 and March 1966 as the result of a mistake in the labelling of a drug. Eight months elapsed between the time when doubts were first expressed and the time when the Belgian Pharmaceutical Association took any steps. Before use in the clinic all drugs are, in theory, subjected to two separate checks; but it appears that staff are so underpaid and overworked that mistakes of this kind are inevitable.

FRANCE

At Montpellier, a University-Industry Association has been set up, and next year the local University College of Technology will offer a course in industrial management. Needless to say the course is not aimed at teaching industrial workers to manage their own plants and factories, but rather at creating a separate class of administrators well-versed in the techniques of control favoured by the government.

ITALY

The Pope has condemned violent revolutionary action as 'giving rise to a whole chain of injustice and suffering; for violence, once let loose, is difficult to control and directs itself at people as well as at institutions'.

He passed over in tactful silence the Inquisition, the wars of religion, and the position recently taken by Cardinal Spellman, to whom anything short of full military victory in Vietnam is unacceptable.

(Sources: *Le Monde libertaire*, *Contre-Courant*, *L'Espoir*)

JOHN THURSTON.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

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

*Except in London—see below.

LONDON FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS. Temporary address c/o Wooden Shoe, 42 New Compton Street, London, W.C.2.

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

HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.

LEWISHAM. LONDON, S.E.13. 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Meetings at Mike Malet's, 61 Granville Park, Lewisham, S.E.13.

NORTH LONDON ANARCHIST DISCUSSION GROUP. 'Dolphin' (back of St. Pancras Town Hall), Sunday, February 19, 8 p.m. Subject: Anarchist Conferences.

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.

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. Deay, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.

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

BELFAST. Contact: Roy McLoughlin, 46 Mooreland Park, Belfast 11, Ireland.

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.

BRIGHTON. All those interested in activities and action should contact Richard Miller, 1/2 Percival Terrace, Brighton, 7.

BRISTOL. Contact: Dave Thorne, 49 Cotham Brow, Bristol, 6.

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.

HERTS GROUP. Friday, February 10, 7 p.m. Jeff Clives on 'William Morris' at South View, Potters Heath Road, Welwyn.

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.

NEW HAM LIBERTARIANS. Contact Mick Shenker, 122 Hampton Road, Forest Gate, Essex.

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, 8 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 Greenway, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson.

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

PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Contact J. Hill, 79 Underlane, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon.

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact A. E. 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.

ROCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Emly Davies, 22 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester. Nightly meetings from Monday, February 13.

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

SWANSEA. Please get in touch with Julian Ross, 28 Uplands Crescent, Uplands, Swansea.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Regional Secretary: J. Bromley, 8 Warwick Road, Chorlton, Manchester, 21. Meeting: Feb. 25, 12 noon at The Salutation, Cavendish Street, near All Saints, Manchester.

Buxton: Chris Berrisford, 10 Byron Street, Buxton, Chorley: 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. Regular meetings.

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Stephen Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.

LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION. Meetings—discussions—activities. Contact Peter Ford, 82 North Road, Highgate, N.6. (Tel.: MDDU 5702.)

PROPOSED GROUPS

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

Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

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

WEST SUFFOLK. Please write to Carl Pintel, c/o West Suffolk General Hospital, Hospital Road, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

S.W. MIDLANDS. Kate, Bill and baby Jane Beveridge wish to contact libertarians in S.W. Midlands. Phone Mickleton 275 or write to Myrtle House, Mickleton, Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire.

GOLDERS GREEN, LONDON, N.W.11. Proposed Group. Get in touch with Jane Wilson, 77 Erskine Hill, N.W.11 or David McLellan, 54 Litchfield Way, N.W.11. (Tel.: SPE 1783.)

MIDLAND YOUTH AGAINST AUTHORITY AND BUREAUCRACY. Proposed Group. Contact N. Jackson, 8 Leighs Close, High Heath, Pelsall, Walsall.

SOUTHWARK. Proposed group meeting first and third Thursday of each month. Dave Burden, 45b Barry Road, East Dulwich, S.E.22.

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-NORTH HAMPSHIRE. Discussion group meets weekly. Contact Ed Strauss at RED 2, Woodstock, Vermont 05091, USA.

SWEDEN. Stockholm Anarchist Federation. Contact Nadir, Box 19104, Stockholm 19, Sweden.

CANADA: Winnipeg. Anyone 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, Sclésin-Liege, Belgium.

EAST AFRICA. George Matthews would like to make contact. Secondary school teacher from UK. PO Box 90, Kakamega, Kenya.

A RECENT WRITER in FREEDOM commenting on the Gypsy struggle talked of the necessity for anarchists to push within the organization to combat reformist tendencies of 'liberal' politicians associated with the campaign for reasonable justice for gypsies. It might be worth our while to consider a little just what is here involved.

Any minority which gets a particularly hard deal within society, if it gets to the point of acting at all for itself (all too often the over-oppressed are so cowed that they do not wish to risk involvement with anything that might get them into yet more trouble with the authorities), naturally seek allies, and allies where power apparently lies, allies with influence.

Therefore, as soon as they have attracted more than a handful of support, and as soon as there may appear to be a couple of hundred votes in it, or at least more votes to be won than will be lost, there will be politicians jumping on a bandwagon. Not of course that one should so cynically dismiss all politicians involved in any one campaign, an otherwise Tory politician let alone a liberal may well feel intensely about one single issue, and be prepared to be quite radical on this; a social-reformist on any issue other than one that directly conflicts with the power of the establishment and the state may well favour what would in another context be revolutionary means.

Therefore any campaign such as that by and for the gypsies, such as work at King Hill or similar hostels, such as promotion of prison reform and the more radical moves to bring into being a convicts' trade union; inevitably looks for influential names at the cost of a dilution of radicalism. Equally inevitably those who are most sincere and prepared to work are those prepared to favour more militant methods, and are most apt to be sympathetic to anarchism.

On a less radical plane this will apply in things like OXFAM or anti-apartheid. So the FREEDOM writer to this extent stated the obvious. But in order to push anarchism in such a campaign, or more to the point to push the case for direct as opposed to political action, one has to be prepared to argue the need for this in terms of the immediate needs of one's fellow campaigners and the immediate interests of the campaign; or alternatively to argue that those interests cannot be fulfilled outside a wider social change.

It is, of course, easy enough to show on an issue (such as disarmament) that reformists cannot be sincere and remain reformists; but this is not true over the issues instanced, or over opposition to racism—it is perfectly consistent with a desire to keep managerialist society more or less intact and unchanged, to wish to see extreme instances of deprivation abolished. It is not even absolutely certain that it is necessary to managerialist-capitalism, unlike the variety described by Marx, that its lowest strata be reduced to absolute physical hunger. Therefore, except in so far as it affects the time scale, or in so far as the argument is tactical or is based on the tendency to compromise and sell out their supporters normal to politicians; the only fundamental anarchist case depends on the argument 'you wish to be integrated into normal society but is normal society worth it?' In the case of the gypsies, of course, they do not want such integration and already have, in many cases, elements of an anarchistic rejection of it.

But to argue anarchism we have to show not merely that reformism does not work, but that something else might. So to those who would not merely work to aid the more radical gypsy campaigners, but to convince them of the need to go further, must argue a tenable revolutionary anarchist case, not moreover such a case that might work, but a case moulded to the gypsy special needs, and which gives some immediate gains however small.

The traditional Left—even the traditional anarchist left—has always in this country dismissed gypsies and others as 'Lumpen' elements unworthy to be called workers. One does not need to accept

the full Provo case to see that, just as managerialism has caught up larger sections of the working-class far wider than the old Labour Aristocracy into its embrace and given them economic motives for the maintenance of the system; so it has also subjected other large sections to dehumanizing methods of production, in many ways far more subversive of human dignity than was the poverty of the old order.

At the very least the sub-proletariat is now too significant a body to be dismissed as unimportant. To be able to change this, to counteract this hostility on the part of the bulk of the proletariat, or to do anything towards so doing, would be to offer a very significant immediate gain as well as the promise of something to come.

If we look to the example of the American movement, we find that the migrant workers were the backbone of the wobbles, we find that it was to some extent the mobility of labour that made it essential that all workers belong to one big union, we find that the migrant instead of being a 'lump' like the itinerant, was considered a folk-hero of labour.

There is here a need to integrate various sections of the sub-proletariat into the body of industrial militancy. Not, repeat not, to set up an industrial union in opposition to the Trade Unions consisting of the sub-proletarian groups, as this would only increase their alienation from the best of the working class; but to find means to bridge the gap between them, shop stewards groups, and the more healthy rank and file committees. In doing so we arm ourselves within the unions with yet another argument for industrial unionism. But this can only be done on the basis of trying to build a consciously anarchist syndicalist movement. Any other would refuse association with those it has so consistently despised.

L.O.

Include Him Out!

Dear Friend,

I am making an appeal on behalf of Robin Warman who has been in the Colchester Military Prison for the last three months, and will serve another three. Since he has just done three days bread and water for refusing 'to soldier', it might well be more.

He is not in any strict sense a pacifist but nevertheless has learnt enough from the Army to be certain that it is morally wrong for him to be in it. At the age of 17 he was talked into 'joining up' so as to become a PT Instructor, as he did not know any other way to achieve this. His parents, being socialists, did consider refusing consent, but eventually decided that they had not the right to interfere.

Soon after qualifying as an instructor, he lost his 'tapes' because he was expected not to mix with privates, and he persisted in putting friendship before rank.

In July, 1964, his elder brother Chris was killed in a car crash and this upset Rob deeply; his family had always been very united, and the eldest brother had also been killed in a crash three years before. So it was in a somewhat mentally disturbed state that Rob was sent abroad a few months later.

He was in the Far East throughout 1965; and it was in Borneo, finding himself actually involved in military action, that his conscience first became troubled by the Army. At the time, however, this was only manifested in terms of fairly violent mutiny. But on return to England he went absent as soon as he finished his disembarkation leave, going on the run repeatedly until he was finally picked up as a deserter in early October and court martialled.

If and when he comes out in May he will immediately be sent to join his Battalion in Germany, unless he can either buy himself out, or the authorities should be persuaded to change their minds and give him his conscientious discharge. Buying himself out would cost £200, his family are in straitened financial circumstances and are in no position to help. As yet £20 has been raised. I should therefore like help, either from those who could afford to give something or from anyone who can needle an MP into putting pressure for a discharge. I should be glad to hear if anyone can help or suggest action in any other direction.

60 Divinity Road, N. J. WARMAN, Oxford AEU Shop Steward.

Local Elections

Dear Comrade,
Local elections — with all attendant ballyhoo and door thumping will soon be upon us. Apathy/anarchy is endemic

'An Ugly Fight: Pages of Pictures'—Evening Standard

MUHAMMAD ALI met Ernie Terrell in the boxing ring in Houston, Texas, and there were complaints of 'mouthy savagery' and lack of sporting instinct. Angela Ince in the *Evening News* wrote 'What's so sporting about sending two grown men into a ring with the specific intention of doing as much damage to each other in fifteen rounds as they possibly can? What's so sporting about dressing up in dinner jackets and diamonds and paying heaven knows what for a ringside view of a licensed brawl?'

MR. KOSYGIN met Mr. Wilson, Mr. Brown, the Queen and Prince Philip, Mr. John Gollan, and Miss Geraldine Gallacher who called him 'my old fruit'—regardless of the fact that Comrade K is one of Stalin's old fruits. The ebullient Mr. Brown pointed out to Mr. Kosygin at a luncheon given by the Confederation of British Industries that the peach he was eating was from America, not a peach from (Soviet) Georgia. By eating that he was contributing to the war in Vietnam. Mr. Kosygin is reported to have replied, 'I can eat anything.' Mr. Brown, we are told by the *Guardian*, demanded in mock incredulity, 'What sort of morality is that?'

WILFRED SENDALL in the *Express*, in an article entitled 'I Have Never Known Such Spite Among Our Leaders', devotes himself to an assessment of the way he thinks George Brown's behaviour is being exaggerated by pro-Wilson factions in order to strengthen the Prime Minister's position. This article is flanked by an anti-Heath cartoon implying Heath to be out of step with the rank-and-file of the Conservative Party. Mr. Heath was stoutly defended earlier in the week by Norman St. John Stevas and sent a frosty farewell letter to Ernest Marples who quitted a party organizational post which was quite what anybody thought it was. Ilya Ehrenburg, that well-known running dog of Stalinism, Khrushchevism and Kosyginism, wrote (in the *Morning Star* of course) an article entitled, 'Now, for a change, I'd like to write about dogs.'

IN OKLAHOMA, USA, the first insurance

company devoted to health insurance policies for cats and dogs was formed. Guard dogs at a supermarket refused to allow the manager and his assistant to enter the premises.

ELEVEN PRISONERS at Durham maximum security jail rioted and barricaded doors against prison officers for 30 hours. The commencement of the riot was when prison officers refused to allow prisoners to retrieve a football. Two students broke into and out of Walton Jail, Liverpool, and painted a 'rag' slogan on inner walls. According to the *Sun*, 'A Home Office spokesman called it a serious breach of security.'

THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH divulged that private letters to political organizations are being handed to the police at Post Office headquarters in London to be opened, read and photographed before delivery. This was disclosed by a Post Office messenger who was a sympathiser of an organization whose letters he had to deliver to the security officers at St. Martins-le-Grand post office. Questions are, as usual, to be asked in the House. The *Mirror*, in a series of articles about Catholics in Britain, divulges that the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists kept files on Communists in the unions which Scotland Yard Special Branch came to photograph ('in the early post-war years'). 'It was,' says the *Sunday Mirror*, 'a largely successful campaign.'

A MAN WAS ARRESTED by military police on the charge of being a deserter, seven months after a civilian court had acquitted him on such a charge. It is stated that he was decoyed to the police-station on the pretext of an accident enquiry, there the military police arrested him on a 'holding charge'.

A VATICAN SPOKESMAN confirmed that monks were being investigated in a monastery in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where a woman psycho-analysed the monks. The Bishop of Cuernavaca said last year that after the woman psycho-analysed 60 novice monks, 40 left the church, the majority to get married. Nuns at Godal-

ming, Surrey, beat local farmers for the second year running in silage making. The Sister in charge stated, 'We said a lot of prayers. At the same time, I don't think we would have won if we hadn't taken good care with the preparations.' Seen in London: a nun climbing into the driving seat of a new 'Viva' car.

A CORRESPONDENT in the *Democratic German Report* asks, 'Why on earth is the GDR celebrating the 450th anniversary of the Reformation this year? Is this not a purely protestant affair?' The paper reprints an answer to a similar question in the *Deutsche Lehrerzeitung* [Teachers' Times] by a spokesman of the State Secretariat for Church Questions. He quotes Engels, 'The lightning wielded by Luther struck; the whole German people began to move.' He goes on to point out how the Reformation undermined feudalism and Papal hegemony. Unfortunately he fails to quote Luther on the Peasant Revolts of 1525, 'To kill a peasant is not murder; it is helping to extinguish the conflagration. Let there be no half measures! Crush them! Cut their throats! Transfix them! Leave no stone unturned! To kill a peasant is to destroy a mad dog! . . . Our princes must in the circumstances regard themselves as the officers of the divine wrath which bids them chastise such scoundrels. A prince who failed to do so would be sinning against God very badly. He would be failing in his mission. A prince who in such circumstances avoided bloodshed would become responsible for the murders and all the further crimes which these low swine might commit. It is no longer a question of tolerance, patience, pity. It is the hour of wrath and for the sword; the hour for mercy is past.'

ACCORDING TO *The Scotsman*, 'the Highlands and Islands Development Board have given a £1,000 grant towards research into the Loch Ness Monster. But it was explained at the board's Inverness headquarters yesterday that this did not mean the monster now has official recognition.'

JON QUIXOTE.

Letters & Appeals

in these elections—polls are always low, despite the weather, political exhortations, etc., etc.—ad nauseam.

Cannot we — as anarchists — advocate something other than 'politics' in Local Government? The system of Jury Service would serve our interests fine — notify certain householders that they would be liable for local council service — yearly choice! The authorities 'bossy-type' would obviously be foreman—he could be Lord Mayor and pay his own expenses. The rest would allocate to themselves health, education, transport, finance, etc.

It's a thought—toss it around.

D.S.

Voyage of the 'Trident'

THE COMMITTEE Against Atomic Testing plans a non-violent protest against continuing French nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

These tests have already resulted in increased radioactive 'fallout' as measured in rain falling in Melbourne and Sydney. For instance it is reported that the content of radioactive caesium 137 has jumped about 150-fold (*Sydney Morning Herald*, November 24, 1966). Further tests are planned for several years to come, including hydrogen bomb tests in 1968.

CAAT is an independent organization representing the interests of a large number of people who want to exercise their opposition to testing and to draw attention to its dangers. CAAT proposes to do this by sponsoring a voyage of protest by the *Trident* to the French nuclear testing area at Mururoa, near Tahiti, during 1967.

Trident is a 42-foot sloop which is being prepared for sea. Volunteers are being trained to man her and trial runs on the NSW coast are in progress.

The crew are prepared to take the risk of radiation, or of interception by the French, which would amount to piracy, as the high seas are not owned by the French.

Purchase of the *Trident* in June, 1966, was made possible by funds contributed from Australia, New Zealand, the United

States and Britain. However, we will not have sufficient funds for the purchase of the powerful radio which will be essential to the success of the venture, and so are appealing urgently for donations which may be sent to the Treasurer of CAAT, Mr. Gladney Oakley, at 61 Eveleigh Street, Redfern. We hope and expect that this will be the last appeal for donations needed.

Our other lack at present is a capable ocean-going skipper and navigator. Please mention this to anybody who may be in a position to help.

The least we can do is to help in some way those who are prepared to meet the challenge of the threat of France's tests in an endeavour to protect us and our children.

Committee Against Atomic Testing, Chairman. 61 Eveleigh St., Redfern

Away with Technology

Dear Editors,
The recent 8-page issue of FREEDOM had some thought-provoking stuff. Especially interesting was Alan Parker's article on the threat to freedom from technology and technocracy. Alan concentrated on the de-humanising and conditioning effect on workers of certain aspects of technology—there are also the threats to human relationships in general, to natural beauty, the arts, and to the 'poetic' or 'spiritual' life.

It is true that technology need not be abused but this doesn't alter the fact that in the modern, greed-fear- and authority-dominated world, it will inevitably be abused. Free and sane men would not feel the need to live in a welter of technological progress and would probably find no use for many of the inventions and

discoveries that have already been made. The world could be adequately catered for with the technology of 1930 or even 1900 if it was sensibly used. Thus technological progress can go out of the window — authoritarians abuse it and anarchists don't need it.

London ALISTAIR MACHENRY.

Simon Community

Dear Editor,

The Simon Community is a national organisation which exists to help men and women in need of long term unpressured care. We approach the problem of social inadequacy from rock bottom breakdown which is the world of 'skid row', and offer a rough kind of substitute home or Community, for those without one, and the obvious qualities which go with a secure base.

The Community is extending its work nationally and now has four Communities fully operational in London, Glasgow, Exeter, and Liverpool. The Liverpool Community has just been offered another house, which has over 20 rooms in it, is five stories high, and needs much painting and decorating and general clearance done, as it has been empty for 18 months, and has been subject to superficial but severe vandalism. Would you be good enough to insert some kind of an appeal for helpers, paint, painting and decorating equipment, and basic Community needs such as bedding, crockery, curtains, old clothing, tools, 1,000 feet of copper piping—the plumbing was ripped out, and we need piping. I know it is highly unlikely that anyone will be in a position to give us 1,000 feet of copper piping, but you never know your luck.

If you could formulate the above information into some kind of appeal asking for enquiries and personal aid to be directed to the above address, we would be most grateful. When we know the extent of potential support, we can organise working parties in detail. Hoping for your help.

All the Best,
Simon Community, MARK NEWNS,
Simon Pool, House Leader,
6 Fox St., Liverpool, 3

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Pickets Win Legal Dispute

BUILDING WORKERS, who have been picketing Sunley's site in Westminster, won part of their legal battle to continue their picket, when last week Mr. Justice James ruled that their action was in the furtherance of a trade dispute. Sunley's, in an attempt to prevent the picketing, had obtained an injunction against 16 men who have been on strike since last October.

However, the discharge only concerns ten of the defendants and so the order against the other six men remains. The judge said that all 16 can continue peaceful picketing and that the order did not take away their rights under the 1906 and 1965 Trade Disputes Acts. The defendants also won costs from Sunley's.

Whether this legal struggle is over or not is now up to Sunley's, for

there is still the question of the interim orders on the remaining six men. These, which include Jack Henry, the Federation Steward, are alleged to have acted in unlawful conspiracy. Sunley's contract manager, Mr. Nutt, said that some of the men were members of the London Building Workers' Joint Sites Committee, 'whose object was to disrupt industry by pressing unreasonable demands for workers'. They disputed this, although Jack Henry said he supported and sympathised with the laudable aims of the committee.

Sunley's tried to make out that there was no dispute and these 16 men were stopping the full working of the site. The contracts manager alleged that the works committee was irresponsible and that their unofficial action had caused the stoppage. This statement was squashed after the reading of affidavits from officials of both the Transport and General Workers Union and the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers to the effect that they supported their members and that the Joint Sites Committee was not the cause of the dispute. The men denied other charges made by Sunley's of the incidences of spitting, abusing and assaulting the site foreman.

The affidavits of the union officials obviously helped a great deal in this case. It seems evident that Sunley's were trying to pull a fast one when they first got the injunction, in fact on the same day that they were having talks with union officials.

ANTI-TRADE UNION CLIMATE
Whether the result would have been the same if the dispute was totally unofficial is open to question. Under statutory law, unofficial strikers have the protection of both the 1906 and 1965 Trades Disputes Acts, but in the present anti-trade union climate, an injunction might

have been upheld under common law. In fact one never knows what can happen once trade unionists are taken to court and the increasing readiness of the employers to do just this is a matter of growing concern to all trade unionists. This was demonstrated by the fact that the picket line was supported by not only building workers, but engineers as well. Financial support has also come from a number of factories in North London. This dispute has not, like so many others, remained in isolation, being actively supported by other industrial workers. Efforts at liaison are at long last showing results.

It is worth noting that the executives of the unions who did not give their support did not even give assistance when the right to picket was threatened. All George Smith, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, could say was: 'It does appear that the men involved in this injunction have been acting outside their unions' instructions and have brought the injunctions on themselves.' ASW members got no legal assistance from their union, neither did the painters and both had to get legal aid and solicitors elsewhere.

What these men are 'guilty' of, both in the eyes of Sunley's and the executives of the ASW and the painters' union, is that they have gained too much by strong site organisation. They have made the basic union rates look silly and have shown that direct action can win high wages and good site conditions. This hurts Sunley's and embarrasses George Smith.

Although they might have won a legal struggle, these men still need support if they are to hold out. Readers can assist in this by sending donations to Mr. H. Cassidy, 61 Bengarth Road, Northolt, Middx.

P.T.

ROOTES' PLAN MEETS RESISTANCE

NOW that car manufacturers have, with minor exceptions, achieved the 'shake-out' of labour, they are endeavouring to carry out further rationalisation. Managements, faced with smaller profit margins, are making attacks on workers' conditions and in this they are following the lead of the Government who is lending a hand of support to the car manufacturers.

The Government-appointed Mr. Scamp, the industry troubleshooter, said in his report last December, that: 'If the industry cannot itself evolve means of retraining minority groups of men from the selfish pursuit of immediate sectional advantage, without regard to agreements, one is forced to the conclusion that the only solution may be for the power to impose sanctions against indiscipline to be vested in authorities outside or independent of the motor industry.' This week Mr. Gunter, Minister of Labour, said that outside sanctions would have to be applied if the industry could not obtain industrial discipline.

The threatened outside intervention, which is feared by both the employers and the unions, will force them to take a tougher line. This has already been the case with the British Motor Corporation, which has toughened its attitude to unofficial strikers and started suspending those who participate in disputes. Mr. Scamp's activities have been widened to include the problems of the whole car industry, such as the overhaul of the pay structure and a study of disputes procedure as laid down in the York memorandum.

It is particularly important to

remember these attacks and threats of outside intervention in relation to the struggle which is taking place at the Rootes Group's Ryton-on-Dunsmoor factory at Coventry. The management are trying to introduce a system of measured day-work payments instead of piece-work. Under the piece-work system, continual shop floor negotiations have led to 'wage drift' and Rootes want to halt this and gain control over production costs. At one time piece-work was considered to be the extra spur to increased productions, in fact another foreman that kept the men at it. This is, of course, still the situation in many cases, but what has happened at Rootes, and at BMC for that matter, is that shop-floor organisation has usually gained better piece-work targets and job control. A measured rate would cut a great deal of shop-floor negotiations and therefore weaken the power and scope held under the piece-work system. The new method would not give workers the chance to push up their earnings by negotiating new targets and they would lose the right of negotiation in respect of manning of jobs, which controls speed-up and the speed of the track.

THREATENED CLOSURE

Rootes say the new wage system would stabilise wages. They propose to pay an increase of 6d. per hour on the present average, provided that production is increased from 22½ cars to 25 per hour. This will mean a 10% increase in production for a 3½% increase in wages. Very nice for Rootes, who are refusing to give assurances about continuity of employment and short time. However, with the procedure formula now exhausted, the management's refusal to negotiate on piece-work rates and the fact

FREEDOM

For Workers' Control

FEBRUARY 18 1967 Vol 28 No 5

Battle of Words

LEADERS of the TUC have decided to ignore the Government plan to introduce permanent compulsory reserve powers. They are not in a fighting opposition mood, just applying gentle resistance. Stewart has, in a roundabout way, informed them that he cannot wait much longer as time is getting short, June 30 is the deadline.

The TUC Economic Committee is to meet Stewart next week, when they hope to persuade him that compulsory powers could mean political suicide.

Questioned in the House of Commons on the maintenance of rigid control over prices and profits as well as incomes, Stewart replied that the words 'strict' and 'rigid' should not be used too freely. The problem was the best method of getting sufficient stability into prices and wages to enable rapid growth to be sustained.

One can honestly say that wages have been strictly restrained, whereas price increases have been far more fluid. In a television interview last week Mr. John Davies, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, stated it was impossible to legislate a price freeze, and to all intents and purposes the Government agree with him, the Prices and Incomes Bill leaves enough loopholes for varying price increases.

Lord Cooper, General Secretary of the G&MWU, writing in his union's journal stated that: 'Particular groups of workers must accept the TUC's "ruling".' The Government should set the 'norm' and sanctions used as a last resort.

On the other hand John Newton, General Secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, writes in his union journal: 'The Government's policy is not an incomes policy. It is stark dictatorship applied to the incomes of the 24 million people of this country who work.' Frank Cousins, General Secretary of the TGWU, in a speech at Bromley stated: 'You cannot apply the dogmas of a totalitarian society to a free unrestricted capitalist society. Because we live in a capitalist society there should be the free right of negotiated wages.' The question is then posed, Is Frank Cousins opposed to the TUC vetting wages? I think not. Does it matter who does the vetting, the Government will supply the 'teeth' anyway.

The battle of words between the trade union leadership and the Government is

that they have sent out circulars direct to employees without consulting the shop-stewards, workers have now taken strike action in defence of their interests. Rootes, on the other hand, seem determined to force their new system through and have even threatened to close down the factory. A similar situation to that at ENVs could be developing here.

In the present circumstances, it is essential that the union officials be prevented from taking the initiative. One lesson that can be learned from the ENV struggle is that no help can be expected from them, at least not at national level. It is obvious that this issue does not just concern the workers at Ryton. The pay structure, particularly piece-work, throughout the industry will soon be overhauled. BMC have already said: 'Our real aim is to get rid of piece-work'. The struggle of the workers at Rootes could be that of the men at BMC in the very near future.

The employers are in a very good position to impose their own conditions, on car-workers. There is the backing of the Government and the fear of unemployment to ease any new measures through. Isolation in this struggle will only make it even easier for the employers, therefore solidarity amongst the workers is a way of defeating the efforts of the employers.

really heating up to a 'whisper'. The Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions is calling for a lobby of Parliament on February 21 against the extension of the wage freeze, that should provide more air both inside and outside the Westminster gas works.

On January 23, 51 employees of the Forrest Printing Ink Company were dismissed for attempting to force the company to pay a wage bonus forbidden by the freeze. The printing ink workers who are members of SOGAT adopted a policy of non-co-operation. All workers have returned to work under instructions from their union.

Only national co-ordinated action of this nature will have any real effect on the Government. This is plain unvarnished fact, anything less is just kidding ourselves, surely we have played pat-a-cake too long.

WORKERS' CONTROL

TUC leaders are taking a cautious view of the plan for trade union representatives to be appointed to the Boards of Public Companies. In their submission to the Royal Commission they stated that although they wanted the law changed to allow trade unionists to 'participate' in Board decisions, the TUC did not propose that these men should become 'executive directors'. Vic Feather, Assistant General Secretary of the TUC, stated: 'We are thinking of participation. We are not thinking of running the joint as well. Perhaps in 30 years' time we might have a different view.' Anyway that should keep the pseudo-left-wing quiet, at least they have a date for Workers' Control.

Lord Donovan, Chairman of the Royal Commission, pointed out the West Germans had experience of trade union representation on the Boards of Public Companies, and it was found that when a trade unionist became a labour director a gulf grew up between him and the people from whom he grows.

Sir Harry Douglas, Chairman of the TUC, said he did not believe a similar gulf would occur between British Trade Unionists if the same system were introduced in this country.

Sir Harry is right, there would not be a gulf, just an unbridgeable chasm, once you 'sell out', and this is what a seat on the Board means, that's you finished, your amalgamation with the employers is complete. This is not old-fashioned class jargon, it's common sense. 'No man can serve two masters', and I don't apologise for the cliché.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

£20 WANTED

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Income: Sales and Subs.: £372

DEFICIT: £168

London: Anon 5/-; Birmingham: A.L. 10/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Bury St. Edmunds: C.P.* 5/-; Nice: P.A. 3/8; California: L.L. £1/1/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; Bristol: R.B. 14/-; Vermont: E.S. £1; Northolt: Anarchist Group* 1/-; Hitchin: L.A. £1; San Francisco: Part Proceeds Festa January 28 £26/5/-; Hartfield: O.M. 10/-; London, N.W.3: P.H. £5; London, N.W.1: G.C. £1; Leicester: J.H. £3/10/-; London, N.W.3: 5/6.

TOTAL: £42 5 3
Previously Acknowledged: £106 1 5

1967 Total to Date: £148 6 8

P.T.

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

Contact Column

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

Speakers. Harlow Anarchists intend to run a series of public meetings and indoor forums. Comrades willing to speak on anarchistic topics will be paid expenses if necessary. Please contact the Harlow Group (see groups column) with offers or suggestions.

Conference on 'Race Toward Tolerance.' Islington International Friendship Council. Speakers: David Pitt; Eric Silver of the *Guardian*; Mrs. Shirley Williams. Chairman: James Cameron. 2.30 p.m. Saturday, February 25, 1967. Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N.1. Refreshments and collection.

Voluntary Editorial Secretary. Wanted for FREEDOM editors. Two evenings a week. Fridays and Mondays. Shorthand not essential but own typewriter desirable. Write Freedom Press.

Badges. Harlow Anarchists. Badges of any slogan, any colour, 1/- each, 10/- per dozen, £1 for 30. 1 in. diameter. Enquiries: 138 Penny Mead, Harlow, Essex. Proceeds to duplicator fund.

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.

Badges. 'Free Stuart Christie—Franco's Prisoner', 3/6 for six (including postage), minimum order. Proceeds to new campaign expenses. Orders to John Rety, c/o Freedom Press.

Who wants the Easter meeting? £8 10s. was raised in December towards the cost of an indoor anarchist propaganda meeting; to be held in London on Easter Sunday (cost of last year's meeting: about £20). The group who organized the fund-raising now find themselves unable to organize the meeting. Anyone undertaking this work should apply to Donald Room for the £8 10s., which will otherwise be given to Freedom Press. D.R., 13 Savernake Road, N.W.3.

East London Committee of 100. Social Evening. Friday, March 3, 7.30 p.m. Downs Hotel, Downs Road, Clapton, London, E.5. Admission 3/-.

Lecture (in Spanish). 'Syndicalism'—A. Ruiz. Sunday, February 19, 3.30 p.m. Lecture Room, Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, W.C.1.

Anarchy. Will exchange copies of 2 and 33 for 37 and 38. Box 48.

Abolition of Royalty. Individual Action being discussed now in all parts of the country and abroad. For details of meetings apply Box 49.

Dialectics of Liberation. International Congress sponsored by Institute of Phenomenological Studies. London, July 15-30. Registration Fee 15 gns. Allen Ginsberg, Paul Goodman, Herbert Marcuse, Ronald Laing, etc. Enrolments to IPS, 65a Belsize Park Gardens, N.W.3.

If you wish to make contact let us know.