

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly 6d

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IT & THE YOUTH REVOLT

THE PHENOMENON known as *IT* has been temporarily silenced by the police. *International Times* was 'raided, seized and placed under arrest' last Thursday. The police were acting on a warrant issued by Bow Street magistrates under the Obscene Publications Act. Their report will be submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The police seized all back issues of the paper, together with most of the files, including correspondence, and circulation and distribution lists. The newspaper has offices in the basement of Indica Books in Southampton Row. The police also searched the bookshop and have taken away three books and three magazines. They left no receipt. The books were *The Naked Lunch*, *I, Jan Kramer* and a volume of romantic poems *Main-Line to the Heart*. The magazines were *Head*, *Intrepid* and *Rose*, which shows a discriminating taste in *avant-garde* verse. Although the warrant was issued on grounds of obscenity, we are informed that the police were from the Drug Squad; the editorial staff was vigorously frisked and ashtrays were searched for 'suspected substances'. Production of the current issue was stopped because *IT*'s printers are frightened of possible prosecution. Efforts are being made to find an alternative printer. Should the police fail to return *IT*'s files and distribution lists the police will be sued for theft.

IT has been inundated with messages of good will and offers of help. A defence fund has also been set up.

Many anarchists took part in a demonstration during the early hours of Satur-



day morning at the Cenotaph where a wreath was laid and a mock burial service for *IT* was held.

The raid on *IT*'s offices should not be viewed in isolation. Gustav Metzger and John Shasley; John Calder; 600 searched in a dance club in Nottingham last night (60 young people kept overnight at the police station); harassment of young people at such innocuous places as Bunjies'. All these and many other instances form the background to the raid. *IT* is likely to become a rallying point for discontented youth. Comrade editors of *International Times*, greetings!

JOHN RETY.

A Long Way to Go

NEARLY A THOUSAND people took part in last Sunday's march and demonstration, organised by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unionism, against the incomes policies of the Government. It was supported by many rank-and-file organisations, including the Building Joint Sites Committee, the Shop Stewards Defence Committee and the Docks Liaison Committee. The unions represented were DATA and the scientific workers and a number of banners from building sites, union branches and engineering factories were evident on the march.

At a rally in Trafalgar Square, Mike Cooley, a lay executive member of DATA, said that if his small union

could beat the wage freeze, so could the larger ones. Other speakers attacked the Government's policies and Lou Lewis, one of the six stewards locked out at Myton's, said that these policies assisted the managements in their attacks on trade union organisation. Gordon Norris, of the seamen's union, appealed for trade union backing for the draughtsmen and said that his union had given £500 to help DATA.

Although the amount of support was disappointing, it did, however, represent a cross-section of a wide range of industries. The Liaison Committee has made a start, but we still have a long way to go.

PETER TURNER.

Colonialism is still with us

FRENCH SOMALILAND is the last French Colony in Africa and the French are determined to hang on to it. Last August Mr. France(?) went to Djibouti, the capital of French Somaliland, during his world tour. The reception he received was one of anger and bitter resentment.

The anger of the French Somalis forced De Gaulle to concede a referendum. As per usual it was a political carve-up, the allocation of polling stations was rigged. More in the pro-French section of the country with less people

and only 12 stations allocated to the capital.

The hook-nosed gauleiter of France played to the gallery as usual, behind the facade political prisoners are rotting in jail and deportations are a common occurrence.

Mr. France wants Djibouti as a base so that when Britain leaves Malta he can be 'Cock of the Red Sea'. It is up to the French Somalis to see that he gets stuffed as is the usual practice with 'cocks'.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

Everybody Hooked on Something

EVERY now and again the newspapers get stoned on something, a minor event, a statistically insignificant happening becomes in their delirium magnified into a world-shaking event or a crisis that is sweeping the nation. Hula-hoops, mini-skirts, the common market, crime waves, birth pills, dog-doping, 'D' notices, it is all the same to them, all grist to the circulation mill. Since so many of these events are self-created they are self-perpetuating—at least until the proprietor grows tired or the public grows tired or some discretionary reason demands that the subject be dropped.

For three weeks now, longer than the average life of a story, the drug menace has been haunting Fleet Street. This is the best kind of Press story—one which has a built-in feedback. These stories of drug-taking pop stars, of drug orgies, sinister clubs, bookshops and coffee bars so excite the citizen that the police are inflamed with one thought only—'Get results!' and swoop thither and yon making raids, arrests and kudos. This activity is taken by the Press as proving that the drug menace exists else why would the police make the raids?

The papers are not above turning in their own version of stories to lend colour to the scene. For example (*Mirror*) 'Chrissie: I Was Stripped in Drug Hunt.' In the recent case at Letchworth of two girls being taken to hospital in a car; (one of whom subsequently died) the *Telegraph* headline is 'Drugged Girls Dumped: One Dies', the *Express* heading 'Dumped from Car' Theory: Roadside Drug Girl Dies.' In none of the original stories is it said that the girls were driven to the hospital and

left for treatment when it was realized they were seriously ill. The most flagrant example of a coloured and false story was in an edition of the *Evening Standard* (25.2.67): 'De Salvo, with a gun, heads for Canada . . .' (and in big letters) 'The Strangler "High on Drugs".' In fact, he gave himself up, unarmed and was only 10 miles away from where he escaped. There is no confirmation of his having taken drugs.

The *Times* comments tartly (28.2.67) 'If there were a public relations firm with a heroin account they could feel proud of the work they have been doing recently' and goes on to make points which coming from me would stamp me as an anti-Fleet Street cop-hating drug addict.

Feeding on the same intoxicant the police have over-reached themselves in their anxiety to get results. Cases are known of addicts being framed, of 'general' search warrants being issued, of valuable books being torn apart in searches for drugs, of a pop star's car being held up in the search for drugs and such-like Gestapo methods. A revealing case from Wolverhampton within recent weeks is that of a police raid on a club which produced no results but six days later the police found near the club, hidden drugs beneath a brick. This, of course, is an inevitable product of the pressure of the Press on the police to get results—and neither are too particular about the methods. The *Times* commenting on the raids on pop stars says, 'Drugs, searches, sex and the swinging city have been built into one single hateful promotion'. The *News of the World* has, in this, played the faithful gun-dog.

FAILURE TO DISTINGUISH

The whole story of narcotic addiction has been confused by a failure to distinguish between the different kinds of drugs with the popular press's mania for simplification. Like any other illegal activity drug-takers seek to baffle the law

by calling things by different names. 'Pot' or *cannabis* or what used to be called 'Indian hemp', until the Indians objected, is the mildest of drugs, claimed to be no more addictive than tobacco and less harmful. It was in fact claimed by one 'pot' smoker at a West London court, 'Pot saved my life.'

Whether it is true or not it is claimed as a fact that Moslems, not allowed by the Koran to partake of alcohol or tobacco are allowed to smoke hashish. Hence the heavy traffic in *cannabis* from the Middle East. It is interesting apropos of this religious angle that a tribe of American Indians were legally allowed to consume a drug *peyote* since they claimed it was an established part of their religious rites.

The failure of communities to assimilate (or even try to understand) the differing habits of immigrant communities is one of the factors in the persistent association of West Indians in the Press, police and public mind with the drug traffic. In fact all that happens is that customs which are perfectly legitimate in one part of the world turn out to be illegal in other parts of the world. As a character said in *The Connection* 'the trouble with us, brother, is that we happen to have vices which are illegal.' Or, as was put more coarsely by Police-Sgt. Kilner of the Narcotics Bureau (via *Chelsea Post*), 'A person must have broken the law to become an addict.'

The obvious answer to the growth of smoking (pot) is, as was done with street bookmaking when it became too large to suppress by fines, legalise it! The history of prohibition in America should be a salutary lesson to those who seek to make us virtuous by legislation.

THE YOUNGER GENERATION

Side by side with this apparent growth of the drug problem is the eternally recurring problem of the Younger Generation. The sensationalism in these stories rests upon the way the young are being 'corrupted' or alternatively 'corrupting' others. The words 'teenage vice' are the magic key to the sluice gates of emotional bilge which deluges us whenever Youth (with a capital Y) is being discussed.

It would be of no avail to say, as many fathers could safely say, 'Look at him, the drug-taking, jazz-crazy, Carnaby Street layabout! Why, when I was his age I was laying Europe in waste.' Before this, teenage vandalism and crime would pale into insignificance.

Allen Ginsberg, the Whitman of pathos for the beat generation wailing their sad cry of self-pity in *Howl*: 'I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving hysterical naked, / dragging themselves through the negro streets at dawn looking for an angry fix.'

Michael Duane gave a more forthright statement recently: 'Youth today is what we make it. Youth today is what we have made it. Unless we can do this

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No Time For Being Dumb

FOR SEVERAL YEARS the sole useful purpose served by the annual Easter festivities has been to provide a market for anarchist literature. CND, having become merely an appendage to the Labour Party or more lately the CP, was never likely to contribute to the possibilities of disarmament.

In recent years, even as a sales pitch, this has been less useful. Corresponding with the revival of the anarchist movement there has been a polarisation of the rank-and-file marchers between the authoritarians and ourselves. Those who were prepared to read anarchist ideas were already in contact with us. (The matter was complicated by the appearance of the Easter Anarchists, people intent to cause trouble who never normally play any part in the propagation of anarchism, but like the colour of our banners.)

In consequence the more honest constitutionalists in CND (chiefly represented by Radical Alliance, Campaign

Workshops, the non-Stalinist sections of YCND, Nalso, and the traditional pacifist organisations) have tended to drop out and this has had the effect of isolating us from potential readers.

It is because of this and perhaps only because of this that anarchists should welcome the opportunity presented by the New Aldermaston March. We must as anarchists make many criticisms of their leaflet *No Time for Silence* and the letter from Hugh Brock, etc., printed in this issue.

1. For years we and the Committee of 100 have criticised CND for its orientation to Government and for marching to London rather than from London to a base. Now we see the Committee doing the same.
2. The leaflet while making many valid/usual criticisms of the evils of our society, neglects anywhere to make the fundamentally revolutionary demand (Unilateral Disarmament) on which the whole movement was founded.
3. Since it is going in for producing a programme of reformist demands it might well have made points nearer home such as housing, police interference.
4. The leaflet does not stipulate whether in the authors' opinion the NLF is working in the interests of 'peace and democracy'.
5. The leaflet, designed to revive specifically pacifist interest in the campaign, while rightly talking of basic values and widened perspectives fails to consider what steps are necessary to force the State to disarm.

But we repeat that this march should provide a good opportunity for anar-

chists to convince fellow-marchers of the need for more radical action. In order to exploit this to the full it is suggested that we turn out duplicated leaflets once or twice a day along the march, discussing the issues that marchers will be considering, and that we hold roadside meetings. For this we urgently need vans and loud-hailers. Please telephone FREEDOM with your offer.

The march should decide if there is any point in joining up with CND in Trafalgar Square or handing in a petition in Downing Street (when Comrade Wilson will be elsewhere) as the organising committee intends.

M.H.

ANARCHY 73

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FROM PROTEST TO PARTICIPATION by Mary Whitehouse. Published by Blandford Press, 1967. 7s. 6d.

HEAVENS! Why bother? For my money the sooner the kids grow out of it and I no longer have to make supper to a background of gunshots and indiscriminate pop music the better... but, no. Be honest—there are rare programmes: Ken Russell's films, Menuhin rehearsing, A. S. Neill in doughty battle with puritanical teachers... But this is selfish! What about the effect of telly on people who are—hrm—less discriminating? My own brood of adolescents, for example? Well, they not only watch Dr. Who and pop programmes, but Neill and Nevsky and Great Expectations; a catholic taste, such as is proper in the formation of one's own ideas and values.

But Mrs. Whitehouse has an entirely different premise. Her concern for the bad effects of television was first aroused by the apparent weakening among her

HAS PRIVACY A PRICE?

THE HEALEYITES have discovered a proof positive of their mail being opened; one of their contacts in the Post Office has described the method by which it is collected, sent round and subsequently returned. One interesting fact to note is that the Special Branch are well aware that no Trotskyist group represents a menace to 'security' at the present time. Nor can any so-called 'national' interests be involved. At the moment they cause extreme embarrassment to the Labour Party, which they are trying to infiltrate, and from the Conservative point of view, it would be highly useful to let them flourish and help to split the Wilsonites. Why is the Government paying so much attention to their mail? Is it perhaps because the Labour Party is using its position in the Government to further its own party political ends in such a matter? It is using, so far as one can see, public money in order to promote its partisan interests.

I therefore propose that all whose mail is being opened should collect the envelopes, and mail them to the Postmaster-General with a request for the postage to be refunded. If the information contained in the letters is of use elsewhere, it is the duty of the PMG to charge the persons using that information accordingly. In the case of the Healeyites, the bill should be sent to Transport House. In cases where the information is used by the Special Branch, their funds should be debited accordingly. At all events, the recipients of letters which have been opened should write to the PMG asking for the postage to be refunded, while when settling telephone bills, a request should be made for the deduction of 20% against lack of privacy. In this case, one can deduct it first and argue later.

Nobody can say these demands are unreasonable. If I write to *The Times*, my letter is not opened. If FREEDOM gets an inferior service, it should be cheaper. It will be interesting to note the response of the authorities if met with a series of demands by bodies whose communications are subjected to snooping. Will they deny it exists? Or will they claim that privacy has no price? MEL

GUNNING FOR THE BBC

secondary school pupils in their resolve to have no sexual intercourse before marriage. In a pilot survey of programmes undertaken over a three-month period last year her selection of significant themes is revealing: Is womanhood respected? (What about manhood???) Is family life shown as essential to the good society? Is authority shown to be upheld? Is Christianity shown to be the true and only faith? Is chastity portrayed as the accepted norm—and one would assume from her other views that she thereby means abstinence from sexual love relationships outside marriage. And she found that the dear old mixed-up BBC was far worse an offender than ITV... Truly! Many instances are cited, but the prize goes to a quotation of one Sir Charles Taylor, writing in *News of the World* (!) who complained of a play called *The Good Shoemaker* because it was concerned with armed robbery and murder and it showed justice in the United States as being corrupt. That was the story of Sacco and Vanzetti.

Why this gunning for the BBC? Mary Whitehouse is a member of the Moral Rearmament Movement; MRA has many adherents in the advertising world; ITV

carries advertising; Blandford Press, her publishers, are also the MRA publishers. I am not sure who is the cart and who the horse, but there would seem to be room for research.

Mrs. Whitehouse is a single-minded, simple crusader and guardian of the nation's morals—the reverse of the coin that is the Carnaby Street/King's Road culture that assaults us so often from the box: a grey mass of—ugh—that colour will not change one iota. So why bother with her book? Because in a totally undigested and contradictory form she has assembled a mass of opinions and statements quoted verbatim that give an insight into the workings of a 95% authoritarian society. (An amusing instance of her contradictions: in one chapter *Dixon of Dock Green* is cited as a healthy programme that promotes good relations with the police; later it is attacked as pernicious because it gives juvenile delinquents ideas for further delinquency.)

But the most sinister aspect is laid bare by Peter Simple, whom Mrs. Whitehouse quotes with approval (*Daily Telegraph*, 28.9.66).

'If scientists had sat down deliberately to produce an instrument for indoctrinat-

ing the masses, moulding their tastes, opinions and attitudes and finally serving the ends of a totalitarian government, they could not have produced one more perfect than this... The "Clean-up TV" people are accused of wanting to censor television and turn it into an instrument of propaganda (they deny this, of course). But, in fact, television is already censored. It is already an instrument of propaganda. It cannot help being one, that is what it is essentially for... (The propagandists now in charge of television are—wait for it! 'Leftish producers who are permissive in morals, cynical if not actually hostile in attitudes to established religion and all traditional (though not progressive) forms of authority.')

... Since it is unfortunately impossible to set the minds of the people free by abolishing this dangerous invention altogether, the only question is: whose propaganda is it going to be? This is only the beginning. We have seen nothing yet.'

So this invasion of privacy, this monstrous electronic cuckoo is regarded by the contending parties as being more than an imperfect source of entertainment and information: it is a battleground for the manipulation of the passive viewer.

How very apocalyptic!

A.M.

EVERYBODY HOOKED ON SOMETHING

Continued from page 1 we shall continue to have the suicides, the drug-taking, the violence, which they associate with young people today.

The association of drug-taking with suicide is no accident. Drug-taking may have supplanted suicide as a way out. The correlation of the statistics on this, particularly from university towns would be of some interest. A social worker in Soho, quoted by *Chelsea Post* said: 'There is no cure for drug addiction because there is no cure for unhappiness.' I would not subscribe to this view, but the association of unhappiness and adolescence is well known. The search for 'kicks' is a desperate expediency of youth.

The *Daily Mirror* ran a two-part series on the 'Young Outsiders' which started off promisingly with a description of how an adolescent became an outsider but finished up (in the second part) with the *Mirror's* romanticism, sensationalism and sentimentality. John Pilger reported in the first issue (21.2.67) a young 'outsider' saying, 'One day you wake up and you realize you don't want to know about crowded factories and nagging people, so you say "Bugger it all. I don't want anything out of society, so why should I put anything into it?"'

The usual confusion which occurs in the Press is cited by *The Times* which later commits one of the prevailing fallacies itself. 'The distinction between various drugs has also been blurred. If one reads the Press reports one might be excused for supposing that heroin addiction was a very widespread habit. Fortunately this is not so, or certainly not yet so. What is relatively widespread is the smoking of marijuana, a drug which is dangerous only to a mild degree, mainly because it can, and sometimes does, lead on to heroin.'

The final statement is questionable

except in so far as the rigorous penalties for possession of heroin has made the black market so tight that the consumer of heroin must perforce become a peddler to safeguard his own source of supply, and the glamorization of marijuana and narcotics by the popular Press lead thrill-seekers to look for more and more forbidden kicks. Were referees legal and other narcotics prescribed by GPs half the addicts would think them 'square'.

A comparison of British and American methods of treating drug addiction shows that the more liberalised methods (before the Brain report) practised in Britain kept drug addiction down to reasonable limits. [For a more technical and detailed criticism see *Anarchy* 60; with an accompanying account of Syanon—an addict's self-help centre—which to my mind is far from reassuring.]

The Press association of crime and narcotics is simply explicable in terms of the high market prices for illegal drugs and the consequent necessity for money to be obtained simply in order to purchase them. There is little in any form of addiction which leads directly to crime.

ARE DRUGS A BORE? All having been said in defence of youth, in explanation of addiction, in criticism of present methods of dealing with addiction, in criticism of Press and police it is necessary to debunk some false ideas about narcotics.

In spite of, or because of, conventional abhorrence of drugs there has grown up a body of romantic myths, about addictions. Because Baudelaire, Poe, Coleridge and De Quincey (and probably many more) were drug addicts, the legend has grown up that in order to be a literary genius one must be an addict—or at least it is a passport to artistic merit.

The fact is that drug addicts are—as

well as being a nuisance—a bore. And boring I suspect to themselves too. Dr. Samuel Johnson once said: 'If Mr. So-and-so has experienced the inexplicable he should not attempt to explain it.' To hear our modern so-and-so's describing (or attempting to describe) what happened when they are high, sent, stoned or took a trip is nobody's idea of fun.

One school of thought—or lack of it—feels that LSD is a useful medium for expanding consciousness. My experience of the average person is that they don't use the consciousness they've got.

To quote our American contemporary *Black Mask* (with which I am not always in agreement): 'Drugs are and should be a personal matter for the individual to decide (not cops and courts) but Leary [of LSD fame] is another matter. His advocacy of religion and his attempts to de-fuse, not spread rebellion makes him the enemy along with cops and courts.'

It can be realized that 'Everybody's hooked on something' and the addict of television, politics, religion, gambling, sport, money-making is firmly in the toils of his habit; and that the nation is firmly on the habit of taking such poisonous substances as caffeine, theelin, nicotine, alcohol, aspirin and the hundreds of other drugs over-prescribed by doctors but nevertheless all this too amounts to waste. Of human life, of human effort, of human health and it is this waste that we, as committed anarchists, are resolved to end.

It can be but slight defence that we are no worse than anyone else. But should it not be a testimony to the quality of living an anarchist life that, as human beings capable of living in society (as it is now with all its imperfections) we can live without the necessity for drugs of any kind?

JACK ROBINSON.

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. Sunday evening meetings 8 p.m. Lamb & Flag, Rose Street, off Garrick Street, London, W.C.2 (Leicester Square tube). Friday, March 17, 8 p.m. at Lamb & Flag, to discuss action and public meetings at Easter. (Anarchist meeting Easter Sunday.)

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

FREEDOM SELLING. Every Saturday, 7 p.m. Meet in forecourt Charing Cross Railway Station for West-End selling. Volunteers wanted.

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 Male's, 61 Granville Park, Lewisham, S.E.13.

NORTH LONDON ANARCHIST REVOLUTIONARY GROUP. First meeting March 18. Contact Michael Buchanan, c/o 17a Maxwell Road, S.W.6.

SOUTHWARK ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Dave Burden, 45b Barry Road, East Dulwich, S.E.22. Proposed meetings to be held on first and third Thursdays of each month.

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim Huggon, 173 Kinghill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex. Meetings first and third Wednesdays of the month at Jeannie's, 6 Epsora 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. Day, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.

BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Walsh, 2 Cumbarian Avenue, Barneburr, Kent.

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

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Keith Watkins, 104 Jerry's Lane, Erdington, Birmingham, 23.

UNIVERSITY OF ASTON GROUP. Contact: Dave Kipling, 87 Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham, 24. Off Centre Discussions. Geoff and Caroline Charlton's, 8 Lightwoods Hill, Bearwood, Smethwick, Birmingham, 41.

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 Caswell, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.

DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, by Cupar, Fife.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1.

HERTS GROUP. 'Anarchist Writers' Peter Ford. Saturday, March 4, 8 p.m. 48 Lonsdale Road, Stevenage.

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, 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.

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

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

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.

ROCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Emly Davies, 22 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester. Fortnightly 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, 11 Wellfield Close, Bishopston, Swansea.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

Regional Secretary: Alistair Ratray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley.

NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION. BUXTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: F. A. Gresty, Punchbowl, Manchester Road, Buxton.

CHORLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Anne Marie Fearon, 16 Devonshire Road, Chorley.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST GROUP. Brenda Mercer, 6 Breckside Park, Liverpool, 6.

LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA GROUP. Meetings weekly. 'Freedom' Sales—Pier Head, Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings.

MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Dave Poulson, Flat 2, 619 Wilbraham Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, 21.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION

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: MOU 5702.)

PROPOSED GROUPS

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.

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.

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

LEE, LONDON, S.E.12. Anarchist-Radical Group. Contact Rodney Hodges, 2 Cambridge Drive, Lee, S.E.12.

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 4 389, 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 Canada. Tel: 987-2693.

U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE. Discussion group meets weekly. Contact Ed Strauss at RFD 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, Scllessin-Liege, Belgium.

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

USA: NORTH-EASTERN MINNESOTA. Contact James W. Cain, 323 Fourth Street, Coquet, Minn. 55720, USA.

Conventional Left

WHEN in 1957 Bevan made his 'naked in the council chamber' speech and so put an end to Bevanism which for several years before had commanded the loyalties of the largest section of what *faut de mieux* was considered Left; he opened the door for the entry on to the political stage of CND and subsequently for the anarchist revival. It is therefore well worth our while to examine this further.

The Bevanites had consisted largely of a number of fairly active constituency and trade union Labour Party workers, and also MCF-types appealing to a far larger number of virtually inactive sympathizers. Under the circumstances the activists were in theory as in practice generally significantly to the left of Bevan and of the inactive support; so that when Bevan and the Bevanite leadership abandoned them, the nucleus of a constituency and TU Left remained; needing only an equivalent mystique to rise again from the ashes.

Since the established sources of power for which Leftists aimed were already in Leftist hands (branch secretariats, etc.), although the bulk of the Left as it then existed insisted in theory on struggle within the LP to capture such positions they very seldom had any prospects of constructive struggle of this sort.

CND provided the mystique, the impetus to stir up Left constituencies to fight, and also a vehicle for the active enthusiasms for new recruits to the Left and radicalism generally. (Later the

Young Socialists—allowed to form because Labour objected to losing radical youth to CND—became a vehicle for similar new activists.) As the radicals were going elsewhere to work and as inactive nuclear disarmers tended to support the Cousins wing of Labour, LP activists became less radical than many of their inactive sympathizers.

When, after Cuba and before the 1964 election, the Conventional Left—which had grown up to replace Bevanism—rallied to the cry for Labour unity it was not just a case of losing its leadership—the middle rank, the party secretaries and such-like were among the first to go. The subsequent attempts to build a new conventional Left out of Labour supporters disillusioned with Wilson (often previously inactive and sometimes formerly contentedly orthodox in their party support) has necessitated producing a new bureaucratic stratum recruited primarily from former CND and YS activists.

Therefore once again we see the situation where the militants of the Conventional Left are, in theory as in practice, better than their supporters and their leaders; which will appreciably affect the situation the next time the Left is sold down the river by its leaders. Last time it opened the door to Nuclear Disarmament campaigning within which an anarchist revival came about: next time a direct anti-state movement can be the only possible heir.

L.O.

'US Foils Orang-Utan Smugglers'—NY Times Int'l Edition

SVETLANA DJUGASHVILI, to the embarrassment of President Johnson and Mrs. Indira Gandhi, sought political asylum fifteen years too late.

MR. SYDNEY SILVERMAN was praised by the *Daily Express*, which reprinted Michael Foot's editorial from *Tribune*. Mr. Ronald S. Mallone of the Fellowship points out that ten of the MPs who voted for the Defence Estimates were reputed 'pacifists, near-pacifists, left-wing, or CND supporters'. Mr. Mallone confesses that he asked his party (the Fellowship Party) executive not to contest one by-election because the candidate (Mr. Edward Redhead) was a Christian pacifist—he voted for the defence estimates. On the other hand two Christian pacifists advised him to oppose Christopher Mayhew in East Woolwich rather than William Hamling in West Woolwich since Hamling was 'almost pacifist and CND'. Hamling voted for the Defence Estimates and Mayhew, forthright courageous champion of peace, abstained from voicing his opinion one way or the other. Mr. Mallone has not yet been elected, so his virginity is untried.

IN THE FRENCH ELECTIONS, Communists, in an electoral pact with Socialists, succeeded in making General De Gaulle's clear majority unlikely. In Italy it is reported that Communist deputies are abstaining from legislation to tax the Vatican; the party is also not participating in the observance of 1967 as Anti-Clerical Year.

LABOUR VOTES SLUMPED in two by-elections and in one (Pollok, Glasgow) they lost the seat to a Tory. Substantial gains were made by the Welsh and Scottish nationalists. The *Daily Telegraph* commented on these results, "The 'plague-on-both-your-houses' attitude of voters—it was also evident at Nuneaton—is understandable. For years the State has been steadily increasing its role. A dozen times a day the citizen is faced with irritating situations and an obvious, even at times an eager, scapegoat. Trains are late, buses are inadequate, telephones are

infuriating. Schools are backward, hospitals are wretched. Electricity costs rise, power failures occur, subsidies are poured into coal mines. The Government, which persists in running almost everything and apparently wants to run more, incurs the odium. The nationalist attack on "rule from London" merely canalises what is basically a widespread dissatisfaction with government in general." The *Telegraph's* headlined "Letter to the Editor" on the same page is "Dwindling Flocks—Decline in Britain's Sheep Production". Peter Evans in *The Times*, commenting on the nationalist gains, says 'nationalism provides reassuring apron-strings to which people may think they can be secured in the big, confusing, outside world. Yet here is its danger. For like the beatniks who "opt out of the system" to a new primitiveness, emotional nationalism can be an escape from reality.' He concludes, "The task of the major parties is surely to make the reality attractive to the heart as well as the head, to represent ideals as well as the majority."

THE GERMAN EXTREME right-wing National Democratic Party split when the chairman ordered the expulsion of the vice-chairman and seven other members. Later the chairman was expelled from his own local branch. According to the *Evening Standard* there are no NDP candidates in Berlin this month because it has been discovered that the Berlin party president was a Communist agent. According to a report in the *Camden and St. Pancras Chronicle* of court proceedings in the alleged shooting of a Young Communist by a man, Ronald Thielemans, wearing a swastika badge, a 16-year-old girl who was with Thielemans in the van when the shooting took place admitted that she was a member of the Young Communists.

THE EDITOR of *The Jewish Observer* (a paper backed by the British Zionist Federation), Jon Kimche, was dismissed and the paper was not published last week apparently because of an article on unemployment in Israel. Its last available issue (3.3.67) headlines 'Allon's

Shock for World Jewry: "Israel has 96,000 Unemployed", 'Tel Aviv's Yellow Press', and 'Should Israel's Justice Minister resign?' According to *The Jewish Observer* correspondent, unemployment had increased by 59,000 to 96,000 in a year, this figure was about 10% of the working population. According to another article in the *JO*, an Israel 'yellow' magazine *Bul's* editors had been sent to prison for a year for publishing material 'contrary to the State Security Law' but, says the writer, 'Bul has learned a bitter lesson and gone back to undiluted sex and violence'. The attack on the Minister of Justice is regarding the arrest and trial of *Bul's* editors which took place in secret. The writer (presumably Kimche) says, 'A great deal is at stake. There is, above all else, the freedom of the individual; the rejection of secret arrest and trial.' The writer goes on to describe how the censorship had not only requested the Students' Union paper not to publish a certain cartoon but also ordered Israeli papers to make no reference to the incident. The writer goes on, 'All this looks dangerously like assuming a pattern of arbitrary action. But no one who knows the character of the Israel government would credit it with dictatorial intentions or with practices which have no room in a democratic Israel.'

BRITISH TRAVEL advertising in the *New Yorker* (18.2.67) rhapsodises thus, 'A pub is a come-as-you-are party. A pub is where you don't worry whether you fit or not. You will. Everyone does. You'll be welcome too. And not just to look at us all and remark on how quaint we are. You can talk to us. Politics. Theatre. Dart tactics. The quality of the beer.' The 'pub' is clearly and unmistakably the Lamb and Flag (plus a mini-skirted and a kilted figure), Rose Street, off Garrick Street, London, W.C.2, where you can talk with the London Federation of Anarchists every Sunday night. Thank you, British Travel! Thank you *New Yorker*! But does J. Edgar Hoover know?

JON QUIXOTE.

PLAY REVIEW

Aldermaston

Dear Friend,

A march from Aldermaston is being organised this Easter, and we have been asked by the March Committee to appeal to you for support. Aldermaston was for a whole generation the focus of protest against the ultimate blasphemy against man: nuclear genocide. What started from the inspiration of a small group of pacifists grew into a worldwide movement. It is clear that what was involved with the demand for unilateral nuclear disarmament was a fundamental reconstruction of our society. It is on this realisation that we want to build, and we believe a start must be made this Easter.

We believe the time is right to turn our attention to more basic values; to question the kind of society we live in and to question the kind of contribution we are making to the rest of the world and the relationship we have formed with it. The war in Vietnam, the racist policies in Southern Africa, and the growing world poverty are intimately connected with the policies of our government. The struggle to achieve disarmament has not run its course; but it is necessary that we widen our perspectives so as to break out of the isolation which engulfs the peace movement.

It is quite conceivable that the march this year could be more important than all the preceding ones. Opportunities are to be provided for marchers to actively create programmes for action concerned with the future of this country and the world. We will make a visible demonstration of dissociation from all that is wrong with the policies of our government and, at the same time, provide an opportunity for those who are so minded to dedicate themselves to working for creative alternatives of a fundamental nature.

Will you give serious thought to joining the march this Easter? Will you give what you can afford towards the expenses of the march, even if you are unable to join it? We believe both the cause and the time are right.

Yours sincerely,

13 Goodwin Street, HUGH BROCK,
London, N.4 ALLEN SKINNER,
ARC 1239 PHILIP SEED,
Aldermaston
March Committee.

Subscription Rates

FREEDOM only (per year)
£1 10s. (\$4.50) surface mail
£2 16s. (\$8.00) airmail

ANARCHY only (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)

Letters

Horror Comics & Papworth

Dear Comrades,

My comments on two letters which appeared in FREEDOM (11.3.67). First, Stuart Marriot on children's comics: these are also read by adults of low intelligence and limited culture. I have in my possession a piece of filth in the 'Secret Service' series, published by MV Features Ltd., 140a High Street, Godalming, Surrey. It was given to me by a fascist friend from the Gorbals. The title is *Web of the Black Spider*. The plot—an English agent helps the CA defeat an attempt by 'wogs' and 'apes' (these are the words used) to assassinate the President and overthrow the American Government. It is the worst of its kind I have come across. The publishers, of course, want profit. All the same, it reads like KKK propaganda.

Secondly, John Papworth, editor of the

stunningly boring magazine *Resurgence*, not content with printing his own irrelevancies, wants to suppress reporting of the class struggle in FREEDOM. He 'suspects it bores everyone else'. Did he take an opinion poll? If so, the results are invalid—I wasn't asked. I'm too lazy to write for FREEDOM myself but I'm grateful to P.T. and Bill Christopher for their work.

The eight-page issues, apart from the first, have been disappointing. Why great chunks of Kropotkin? What we need is stuff on 1967.

Yours fraternally,

London, N.1 DAVE COULL.

Through the Anarchist Press

SOUTH VIETNAM

IT IS ESTIMATED that a million dollars have been sent out of the country by highly placed South Vietnamese officials and safely invested in other countries. Girls are being recruited from the countryside for the flourishing brothels of Saigon. Current price for a passport with exit visa: \$1,000.

SPAIN

In addition to charges of illegal association and storing of arms, the five young anarchists recently arrested in Madrid are faced with a further one of 'illegal detention'. The grounds for this

third charge are difficult to appreciate, since the accused have 'detained' nobody at all. To connect them with the kidnapping of Monsignor Ussia is ludicrous as they were in Spain when the kidnapping took place in Italy; and there doesn't seem to be any other case of 'illegal detention' which can be linked with them in any way. Disregarding these technicalities, the prosecution is demanding a sentence of 15 years and 3 months for Luis Edo, Antonio Cañete and Alicia Mur; and one of 6 years and 3 months for Jesús Andrés Rodríguez Piney and Alfredo Herrero.

JOHN THURSTON.

(Source: *Espoir*.)

ROBERTS-ARUNDEL

Continued from page 4

had broken up, and he told me that a determined effort would be made at the DC this week, to get the mass pickets out again, in spite of the ban on all demonstrations outside the factory.

So by the time this article goes to press more violent pickets could once again have taken place at the gates. And judging by the feeling in the town, against the Roberts management and scabs, it is more than likely. The tremendous support that has been given to the strikers just cannot be over-emphasised. One local shop steward I know, was only in work for 2½ days during the week of the mass pickets, and countless others have lost time and money week after week to go and reinforce the line. The 700 lads on the Shell Chemicals site at Carrington who gave such magnificent support on the

line that Wednesday, as did the men from Craven's engineering works in Redditch and all the other firms around the area who have helped the Roberts lads all along the line.

The whole of the Stockport trade union movement is determined to back the lads right up to the hilt, and to see that if necessary Roberts-Arundel has to shut up shop and get out, before this strike ends.

If you would like to know the full background of this dispute, there is an excellent pamphlet available, price 6d. or more, from: Colin Barker, 43 Daisy Bank Road, Manchester, 14. All proceeds to strike funds.

All donations to:—The Treasurer, The Strike Committee, 125 Wellington Road South, Stockport, Cheshire.

All monies will be acknowledged.

A STOCKPORT CORRESPONDENT.

... rare qualities ...

BENITO CERENO, Mermaid Theatre.

WITH certain reservations, *Benito Cereno* by the American poet, Robert Lowell, on for a short run at the Mermaid, is an admirable play. Englishmen who view the US with increasing misgivings will welcome this portrait of Ur Americanus (and I don't mean the Red Indians and I don't mean the Negroes).

Since the death of Cummings I know of no poet other than Lowell in the US who stands so archaically in the middle of the 19th century—fervent with that century's conscience and whatever values its enlightened minority maintained—from which to attack the colossal monstrosity of American government and to only a slightly lesser extent, current American institutions and mores. Cummings was, ironically, that country's greatest poet; Lowell is of lesser stature, but he knows how to choose his masters: Cummings, Hawthorne, Thoreau, Melville. . . . It is from a short story by this last, based in turn on a true incident, that the plot of this play is derived.

I won't recount it (the usual sources can provide this) but I will note what otherwise might escape one's attention: the difference in the leading characterisation—a Yankee ship captain—and in the denouement between the Melville story and Lowell's version is significant. It reveals the poet's intention: to portray the solid, American citizen—fatuus, self-righteous and arrogant, violent and racist—and to make a viable contemporary commentary. The play concludes with a bleak prognosis for the outcome of the heroic, now uncontrollable Negro uprising. *Benito Cereno* is concerned with power and violence. There are no new observations, but Lowell, a pacifist ex-convict, expounds his concepts intelligently. Moreover, he does so at a time when intelligence and honesty are rare and brave qualities in the US.

I found the play too loosely built. The tension it engenders is provided by the extraordinary incident. Formlessness in art oppresses me as much as heavy structures and massively complex organization do in other areas—in architecture, for example, or bureaucracy. The acting was supremely good, the ensemble playing remarkable and special credit is due to the adroit casting.

Since the tension mounted in the nature of the plot, I do not know how much Jonathan Miller, the director, is

responsible for the ominous, crescendoing atmosphere. Some of the characters milked the lines unnecessarily and their lengthy pauses (an irritating characteristic of the English stage at present) was sometimes distracting; but this is a minor complaint.

The one set was excellent. A dozen designers are given credit(!) and among these I was happy to note our old friend, Julian Beck who, banished from the US, is at liberty somewhere.

I think it proper to acknowledge that my companion was almost unreservedly enthusiastic. He found the play exciting and nostalgic: he had not felt such atmosphere on stage since he directed Eugene O'Neill's first sea plays in 1915! Whether this prevailing atmosphere was owing to Melville, Lowell, Miller, O'Neill or the sea, I can't say. O'Neill was Irish and moreover, consciously indebted to Strindberg. Influenced by the Irish or the Swedes? Quite an accomplishment for one of the Lowells whose ancestors talked only with God.

DACHINE RAINER.

Help!

WEEK 10, MARCH 11, 1967:
Expenses: 10 weeks at £90: £900
Income: Sales and Subs.: £587
DEFICIT: £313

London, N.W.11: D.M. 2/6; Oxford: Anon* 5/-; Oxford: S.B. 5/-; Keighley: A.M. 10/-; California: A.R. £2/-/9;
Woking: R.C. 2/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; London, W.C.1: M.D. 14/-; London, W.6: M.B. 2/-; Vermont: T.J. 15/7; Aberdeen: L.S. 4/6; London, N.W.8: D.R. 1/9; Todmorden: G.B. £5/-/6;
Northolt: Anarchist Group* 3/-; Bury St. Edmunds: C.P.* 5/-; Southall: Anarchist Group* 13/7.

TOTAL: £11 19 8
Previously Acknowledged: £213 2 4
1967 Total to Date: £225 2 0

*Denotes Regular Contributor.

Giving Nothing Away

AT LONG LAST the wage freeze is drawing to a close, the Government's proposals on pay for the rest of the year will bring a touch of gladness to the hearts of many low-paid workers. The Government has set a nil norm for the rest of the year which means brother you get NOTHING! There is a ray of hope, the Government is to consult the TUC and CBI before it finally makes up its mind. The TUC will shake its fist at the Government, but I think it is fair to say that the outcome will be wage increases amounting to NOTHING!

Only one point of the Government's original proposals which may have fallen by the wayside is the power to prevent 'back-dating'. Other than that the Government intends to push on with its proposals to implement Part II, it may compromise on the length of the delaying power but that's all.

There has been one wage increase sanctioned, the Duke of Cornwall (Prince Charles) will have his income doubled to £30,000 a year, but I think it was on the basis of productivity in his capacity as a book-end, the Duke has agreed to support more books.

The Prices and Incomes Board

Contact Column

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

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.

House or Apartment wanted for July. American comrades (4) need house or flat to rent for month of July. Box 50.

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.

Christian Anarchists wishing to meet other Anarchist or Libertarian Christians please write to Carl Pinel, c/o West Suffolk General Hospital, Hospital Road, Bury St. Edmunds.

School. Could parents/teachers please give me information about any enlightened primary (especially Junior) schools in London area or S.E. England. Box 51.

Accommodation Wanted. Cheap sleeping accommodation/dry floor. Anywhere in London for seven days June-September. No cooking. Write Alan Murgatroyd, 28 Sun Street, Haworth, Keighley, Yorks.

Elizabeth Windsor. Hull Anarchist Group require any anti-royalist information or literature. Particularly about the Queen. H.A.G., 89 Fountain Road, Hull.

Poetry Readings, Manchester. Free, informal, at Castle Hotel, Oldham Street, off Piccadilly, Manchester. Thursdays, starting March 2, 7.30 p.m. Further information/kip required, contact David Stringer, c/o International Centre, 64 George Street, Manchester, 1.

Lecture in Spanish. Sunday, March 26. José Cabañas 'The CNT and the Future of Spain'. Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, W.C.1, at 3.30 p.m. CNT Great Britain. All welcome.

Educational Courses. Creative Thinking and Writing; Direct Action and Non-violent Techniques of Resistance; Libertarian Education; Foreign Languages (practical modern methods). Other interesting subjects. Nominal fees. Send 2s. 6d. (Blank P.O.) for details to Box 52.

Unaligned in Vietnam? Easter Pamphlet. 'Neither Washington nor Hanoi but Libertarian Socialism.' Duplicated pamphlet for sale, price 3d. Write Laurens Otter, Tolstoi, New Yatt Road, North Leigh, Witney, Oxon.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

has just reported on the Wages Council award for workers in the Retail Drapery, Outfitting and Footwear Trades. The report states that the Wages Council award of an increase in the basic minimum for men of 15s. a week should be cut to 12s. and for women from 12s. 6d. to 10s. Not content with those pearls of wisdom the Board recommends that the increases should not be paid to all employees as is the custom. The Board graciously concedes that the average weekly wage for men in drapery of £16 2s. 7d is below manual workers in industry, but the Board states drapery workers enjoy shorter hours. Funny, when I pay the rates I do not pay less because I work shorter hours, perhaps I have been caught all these years.

The PIB are to ask the Government to make changes in the status covering Wages Councils so that they take into account national incomes policy. Wages Councils are not noted for their generosity in pay awards and this one was no exception.

The employers, the Retail Drapery Council offered 9s. for men and 7s. for women. The independent members on the Wages Council voted for the workers on this occasion.

Frank Cousins, T&GWU general secretary, strongly attacked the report and the Board for limiting the application of the increases. USDAW whose members are affected objected to the interference of the Board particularly in its actions of lowering the increase already agreed. John Davies, director general of CBI stated: 'This report shows that many workers whose rights seem to put them amongst the lowest paid are in fact taking home average earnings'. Average earnings for manual workers in industry is £20 6s. 2d., rather different to Charlie's £500 per week.

'Come back home nearly all is forgiven', this is the cry of BMC. Last November they sacked 12,000 workers, now they are wanting some back. Of the 400 sacked at Morris Commercial 100 have been taken back. BMC is inviting 3,000 more people to join, about 25% of those sacked. When queried about the obvious 'balls up' in November, the employers replied natural wastage has upset the production programme and the market has brightened.

One or two significant points come to light; first, 15 of the former shop stewards are not on the list for inviting back and secondly the labour force is still less than pre-November. Shake out the militants, reduce the labour force, increase production, no wonder the employers such as Lord Thomson support the Labour Government. They know on which side their bread is buttered.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

Unions Fail to Open Mytons

THE AGREEMENT signed by the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives and Myton's management concerning the return to work, states that the six stewards denied reinstatement can use the disputes machinery to rectify this. However, this procedure has now been followed and the National Commission of union representatives and employers was unanimous in its decision that 'there is no possibility of reasonable labour relationships being established if these six men are re-employed on this site'.

The commission called for the original agreement of February 14 to be carried through, meaning that the rest of the site now be re-employed. We now know that the original decision not to return to work without the six stewards was correct. If this had happened, it would have all been over now. Instead there is a direct battle with the union executives who have to decide how they are to get the men to return without the stewards.

The dispute started 21 weeks ago with the sacking of three steelfixers, the site subsequently re-started work after being put on notice. On the expiry of this the men were locked out. This illustrates how blatant is this attack by union executives on the six stewards.

For the last three weeks, the Press has continually turned out vicious lies about these stewards, those in the Sunley's dispute and the Joint Sites Committee. At the time when the *Evening News* said that there was £400 in the joint fund, it actually amounted to about £8. Not that these attacks, both of the Press and the executives are unexpected, but now the executives have got the task of getting the site started for Myton's. They have got to get the 'scabs' in.

On Monday at a meeting in the site canteen, Len Eaton, Regional Secretary of the NFBTO, tried again to persuade Myton's lads to go back without their six stewards, but he was unsuccessful. Even though the six remained silent, Eaton took a right hammering. One West Indian said that he had listened carefully to all that Eaton had said, weighed it all up and the only conclusion he could come to was that Eaton was a 'crook'. Despite a huge notice saying that the site was open by National

Union agreement, it remained idle.

DEPUTATIONS SIT-IN

Following the meeting more than 20 lads went as a deputation to the NFBTO offices in Clapham. They had hoped to catch Harry Weaver, the National Secretary, but he had got wind of their intentions and skipped it. However, the men occupied the hallway for over an hour. A member of the staff of the NFBTO tried very hard to prevent the deputation from getting any publicity and refused to answer questions put by a *Daily Mail* reporter, who was eventually pushed out of the front door. Although the police were called, they did not eject anyone.

After leaving the thickly-carpeted hallway of the NFBTO, the lads went on to the headquarters of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers. A policeman was already on duty, but this did not deter the lads from entering the building. Four ASW members did see the Assistant Secretary, who told them to accept the findings of the National Commission. In reply the four men said that they did not expect anything from the ASW and were determined to fight for the reinstatement of the six men themselves. The union official did say that at the union executives' meeting, earlier in the day, it had been decided to take action against their members if they did not return after the Easter holiday.

This struggle is really against the union executives, who are in the position of having to get the site re-started for the management. It just illustrates how far the unions are prepared to go in order to defeat militant trade unionism. The executives and the top management of Myton's are in agreement that the militancy must be stamped out on the site. A defeat here will mean a defeat for militant organisation on all building sites and this must be prevented from happening.

Already about 900 men on the Laing's and Turriff's Barbican sites have unanimously voted to strike if 'scabs' are moved in on Myton's. Support like this will ensure a victory for the Myton's lads, who are determined that all will go back and that there will be no casualties in this struggle.

Financial help should be sent to A. D. Leadbetter, 9 Wells House, Rosebery Avenue, London, E.C.1. P.T.

Freedom For Workers' Control

MARCH 18 1967 Vol 28 No 8

DATA FIGHT THE LOCK-OUT

LAST WEDNESDAY employers in the Shipbuilding Federation carried out their threat to lock out the draughtsmen belonging to the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association. They took this step because 170 DATA members have been on strike for higher wages at Swan Hunters yard. The employers claim that the union is using each yard as a lever to make the next concede and in order to prevent this they have decided on a national lock-out.

Draughtsmen did report for work but as a DATA spokesman said: 'Most of our members presented themselves for work and got into their offices but found their work was locked away or were told they would not be paid for any work performed.' The employers can carry on production without the draughtsmen's work for a considerable time, several weeks maybe, before there will be any effect on other work in the yards. This is why the Federation decided on this move for they found they could not defeat DATA at individual yard level and so they took them on nationally.

As DATA is the most militant union opposing the Government's incomes policies, it would not surprise me if Mr. Gunter is behind the Federation's move. Some union leaders, fearing that their members might be affected, have urged the Minister of Labour to intervene. The *Daily Telegraph* was very revealing in one paragraph of its report saying: 'But Mr. Gunter is unlikely to intervene at this stage on behalf of a "recalcitrant" union which is trying to break the pay freeze by militant action. The Government, it is even thought in some quarters, would not be opposed to DATA being given a "clobbering".'

Other unions in the industry have so far failed to give any real support to DATA. All that emerged from the meeting of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions were instructions to their members not to do any draughtsmen's work or handle any work done by outsiders. The Transport and General Workers' Union's engineering secretary proposed that they break off negotiations with the employers

on a new disputes procedure. This is scheduled to be concluded on Monday, but even this mild proposal was rejected. Mr. Barrett, General Secretary of the Confederation, has made this timid rebuke to the employers. 'The climate was just getting better. It does seem a pity there should be a lock-out at a time like this.' He probably meant that DATA was a bloody nuisance.

The President, Mr. Tallon, obviously frightened that the rank and file might give their support, warned union district secretaries against unofficial action. Support for DATA was a matter for the union executives to decide.

DATA are up against both the Government and the employers, and how long will they be able to hold out against them? All those who are locked out are getting dispute benefit which is more than half the normal wages, but DATA funds are low and they cannot expect much goodwill from very many unions. Apart from the financial situation, there is the use of self-employed subcontracting, of which there is a considerable amount in the industry, and DATA's efforts to get rid of it drew an attack from Enoch Powell, MP. Although a number of companies have agreed not to use this type of labour, shipbuilding managements might try, and only the 'blacking' by other workers could ensure that this did not work.

However, the only real way of ensuring a victory for the draughtsmen is for other workers in the yards to take action themselves. There are no signs of this at the moment. Union executives, for their part, fear it and would not like to see their members out on sympathy strike. A long-drawn-out battle ending in defeat would cripple DATA and the calling off of the strike at Swan Hunters would set them back considerably. This also be a serious defeat to all trade unionists who oppose the wage freeze.

This is a struggle which involves an issue affecting us all. It is not just the fight of the draughtsmen, but of all trade unionists. These men should get every assistance to ensure their victory. P.T.

ROBERTS-ARUNDEL STRIKE

OVER 1,300 trade unionists demonstrated in Stockport on Saturday, March 4, in support of the 145 strikers at the American-owned firm of Roberts-Arundel by marching to the Town Hall. Before the demonstration began Assistant AEU Divisional Organiser, Bob Wright, was cheered when he said, that if police were going to be used as strike-breakers, 'Let us make it clear that we will not stand aside'.

This dispute started after the management, without consulting the stewards, had taken on women, shortly after men had been made redundant. In some cases the women were doing the same job for £10 per week which the men did for £20. The management knew of the opposition to this, but insisted on employing more women and so knowingly provoked the strike.

The new American management has acted in a high-handed and dictatorial fashion in all its dealings with the shop stewards and union officials. It is openly opposed to trade union organisation and is determined that it should not return.

The week before trouble had flared on three consecutive days, when mass pickets clashed with police outside the factory. On the third day, Wednesday,

February 24, the management, corporation officials and police discussed the possibility of reading the Riot Act, as over 1,000 workers hurling bricks and bottles battled with 200 police. It was only after the police threatened to truncheon-charge the crowd that the district officials managed to get the men to disperse. During the fighting three policemen were injured, including the Deputy Chief Constable who received a broken arm and a chest injury, and nine workers were arrested. The firm later claimed that £3,000-£4,000 worth of damage had been done to laboratory equipment and showroom machinery, by missiles hurled through the windows by demonstrators.

After the trouble on Wednesday, February 24, the Mayor of Stockport hurriedly convened a meeting for a week later. The talks at first broke down and they were adjourned until Saturday, March 4, when, after a few hours, they broke down again—completely. At a meeting afterwards Alf Jones, the AEU Divisional Organiser, announced to the demonstrators, 'The fight goes on'.

I spoke to a member of the Stockport AEU District Committee when the march

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