APRIL 22 1967 Vol 28 No 12

Anarchist Weekly 60



### PRINTWORKERS PROTEST AGAINST WAGE FREEZE

STOP PRESS

to be scanty and it is not known what considerations — if any entered into the decision to change union policy. The rank and file of the union warmly welcomed the original anti-Labour government stand of Sogat on this issue and a number of chapels (shop floor organisation) have taken action to present demands to managements.

The print workers' meeting convened by the Press Association (Sogat chapels) did not receive the union's official support and a letter was read at the beginning of the meeting from the secretary of the 10,000-strong Editorial and Clerical Branch, quoting another letter from the union's national joint secretary, Mr. Richard Briginshaw, stating that the chapel had no authority to officially call such a meeting and that if it did take place it could only be in the name of 'unofficial' rank and file workers. Amidst low roars of laughter, the assembled print workers promptly constituted themselves into a 'meeting of rank and file print workers'. So much for the 'lead' from the union leadership. The initiative of Sogat rank and file print workers, known for their militancy on the job, was warmly welcomed by other rank and file print workers organised in other print unions and the May 1 Committee was elected representing various crafts and sections of the industry. The Association of Rank and File Print Workers is now actively campaigning to get the maximum support for the May 1 stoppage and demonstration march. A general consensus of opinion is that ONLY a break-through organised on a chapel level can successfully challenge the 'freeze' on the wages and other demands made by the print unions in the past year. Although only recently formed, the Association of Rank and File Print Workers is gaining support and appears to be the most advanced section of militant print workers to emerge in recent years. It includes in its aims and objects (according to its bulletin, the Printworker): 1. to fight the wage freeze, prices and incomes act, and all anti-trade union legislation by joint action in the industry;

AN APPEAL is being made to all print workers in Fleet Street newspapers and in general printing for a May Day stoppage of work and demonstration march. The demonstration kicks off at 12 noon on MONDAY, May 1, from Blackfriars (Underground) Station, Embankment, London. It is in protest against the continuation of the Labour government's incomes and prices policy-the 'wage freeze'but is equally aimed at the TUC's alternative 'voluntary vetting' scheme. This call to action is not being confined only to print workers-any other sections of workers who are prepared to demonstrate their militancy by a definite STOP WORK and march will be cordially welcomed by the print workers on Monday, May 1. The aim is a united workers' march which would include building trade workers, dockers, engineers and others, who are definitely prepared to stop work and begin a struggle against the 'wage freeze' policy and the complete failure of the trades union officials and executives to make an effective stand in defence of the whole future of the trades union movement. The call to action comes from the recently formed Association O Rank and File Print Workers. A May Day organising committee has already been set up. It was elected by a print workers' meeting convened by the Press Association (Editorial and Clerical Chapel) of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat) on March 29, which was attended by militant print workers from various unions and chapels in Fleet Street and the general printing, ink and paper industries. With 130,000 members, Sogat is now the largest union in the printing industry, being an amalgamation of the old Natsopa and the Paperworkers Unions. The joint May Day Committee and the Association of Rank and File Print Workers have held a further meeting and it has been agreed to distribute 10,000 leaflets making the call for action. It is already being widely circulated in Fleet Street newspaper houses and it is hoped that the distribution will be widened to general printing. In the red 'May Day' leaflet, it says:

originated in America where, on May 1, 1886, nationwide strikes took place for the eight hour working day. The idea spread, and at a conference of European and American Trade Unions held in Paris in 1890, a call was made to trade unionists everywhere to stop work and demonstrate on May 1 for working class demands. May Day has been part of working class tradition ever since. But what started as a show of trade union strength has since degenerated into farcical and meaningless 'demonstrations'. In Britain May Day is not even held on May 1, but on the first Sunday in May so as not to interfere with capitalist production. This year's 'official' demonstrations will probably be addressed by those architects of the wage freeze-Wilson, Brown, Stewart and Gunter-all no doubt wearing their red ties for the occasion. The print workers' May Day Committee is also taking urgent steps to contact organised sections of the rank and file workers in other industries before May Day and welcomes enquiries and support from other sections of workers. It is on record that Sogat has been in favour for many years of a public holiday on May 1 as 'Labour Day' and the old Natsopa has presented this demand many times in national negotiations with the various employers organisations, without it ever having been generally conceded in agreements. Only in a few isolated cases of agreements with a number of individual firms has the claim been conceded. This renewed interest in International May Day, which has already been achieved in many countries but not in Great Britain (the so-called 'labour movement's' May Day being usually held on the first Sunday in May) has been sparked off by the Labour government's anti-trade union legislation and 'wages freeze' policy. It is claimed that a stop work and march will be the 'practical application of union policy'. It is understood that Sogat was originally opposed to the Labour government's incomes policy and was numbered among the few unions which had officially declared itself against this policy. Subsequently the union's executive has changed its original policy and now supports the alternative TUC 'voluntary vetting' policy. Information on the new policy in union circles appears

# Inpla

All this happened once upon a time. Before the GLC elections in fact. . . . T USED to be called Fulham Town Hall. The younger of us remembered George Brown explaining Socialist nationalism there, the middle generation remembered the Night the Cloakroom System Failed, the oldies remembered the Tribunals of Judge (Jefferies) Hargreaves beneath the portrait of Nell Gwyn (a Fulham girl).

Now that Fulham is incorporated into the greater gau of Hammersmith, it is known as Fulham Old Town Hall, it is not what it used to be.

However, rumour had been rife in the borough for many months and now, a fortnight after the plans for the new motorway and a week before the municipal elections, we were invited to a meeting to discuss the Moore Park Road Area

Redevelopment, at the Old Town Hall, and all tenants in the area were invited. It was once recorded of a Fulham street that when one of the minor Great Train Robbers was captured there it was the first time the neighbours had spoken to each other. However they were all there now, in the Town Hall. Those vaguely half-remembered faces who are part of the scenery to us, rather than individuals. A large proportion of them were the local shopkeepers and a sprinkling of strangers in pin-stripe trousers.

About to mount the platform was the leader of the Council whose face seemed vaguely familiar but his function for the moment was but to introduce the architect who was going to illustrate the scheme with slides.

The pictures showed the proposed new



# MAY DAY MEETING

Monday, May 1, 1967 from 3.30 p.m. to sunset 6.30 Public Meeting 7.30 March to Spanish Embassy

development of a four-storey building with a high-level pedestrian walkway. The buildings of four-storey and twostorey terraced maisonettes will provide traffic free access to each dwelling.

There will be large garden squares of 300 feet long and 100 feet wide. It would seem highly probable that the present garden in Maxwell Road (now running wild), formerly cultivated by the former editor of FREEDOM, will be the basis of the new landscaped squares. Indeed they may have been the inspiration. We were shown shots of the area, before and after. Unfortunately, as all these pictures are, they compared the area (and traffic) at its worst with the highly idealized pictures of the artist's conception of the architect's idea of the council's hope of the ministry's permission of the exchequer's purse-strings. Some of the neighbourhood petit bourgeois called out 'distortion!' when a truly horrible piece of local architecture at its slummiest was compared with a dream-like vision of what it could be. The meeting proper then started with the leader of the council (who was he?) in the chair and the chairman of Hammersmith Housing Committee, the architect, the council's valuer and various other functionaries of the council on the platform. The chairman said that 1960-1972 had been marked out as the second period of the development of the area. With the present development there would be an estimated 84% housing gain, at present the areas due for rebuilding housed 1,850 people in 725 households, the council waiting list was of 5,000 people. Area (1) would be completed by August 1967.

Continued on page 3

All over the world May 1 is regarded as the worker's day. It

DFAL

2. to encourage sympathetic industrial action should the penal clauses of the Act be invoked against anyone trying to improve wages and working conditions;

3. to campaign within the printing unions for a ballot of the membership on the question of continued affiliation to the Labour Party;

4. to propagate the idea of one union for the printing industry; 5. to associate with rank and file movements having similar aims in other industries.

All print workers are urged to support this new movement and make the May Day stop work and demonstration the break-through and start of a big campaign of struggle. The association welcomes the support of ALL workers who are prepared to 'stick their necks out' on May 1. For further information of the May Day march and demonstration, readers are urged to write: Association of Rank and File Print Workers, 29 Love Walk, London, S.E.5.

#### HYDE PARK, SPEAKERS' CORNER **Organised by the LFA and SWF**

COMPANY POLICY OF THE ADDRESS AND ADDRESS

#### MAY DAY IS MAY 1st SHOW YOUR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The first world May Day demonstration resulted from protest against the judicial murder in Chicago of six anarchist workers 81 years ago.

Today thousands of Trade Union and political prisoners suffer in Spain's fascist jails including 20-year-old Stuart Christie of Blantyre, Scotland. Latest victims include ANTONIO CANETE, LUIS EDO, ALFRED HERRERA, ALICIA MUR, JESUS RODRIGUEZ.

News of this demonstration will reach Spain. Help the Spanish underground resistance by joining it.

(This leaflet is available from FREEDOM and Direct Action.)

**Distribute leaflets, sell anarchist** literature, sell 8-page 'FREEDOM' on 'official' May Day meetings all over the country!

TORIES KEAL

THANKS to the weather, wellintentioned public apathy and the activities of a few 'misguided' revolutionaries, the anarchists polled approximately 60% of the votes not cast in the GLC nose-bounce.

The build-up to this massive anticlimax was duly exploited by the anarchist fringe, at least in our locality-Lesser Ealing, a marginal borough at which last time the Stories (Socialist/ Tory coalition) gained a unanimous poll of massive public apathy, as a vehicle for the education of the masses as to the existence of a positive anarchist alternative.

Candidates and speakers were constructively heckled and the public were even informed of this 'positive anarchist alternative' at two open-air meetings. Once people began to take our ideas seriously, the general reaction was an astounded "e's right yer know' from all quarters. Overhearing conversations in shops, pubs, and along the street at the time of the carnival, the opinion was overwhelmingly endorsed.

Now, however, 'The carnival is over' (Yechhh!). It is a case of 'business as usual' once more for the next three years as far as the police and the bureaucrats are concerned.

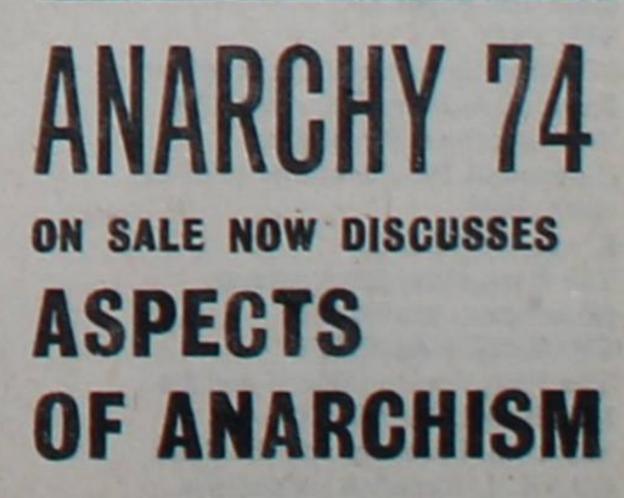
The anarchist majority have been overruled once more by a minority lunatic fringe. This despite a 4% swing to the anarchists.

What's that you say? The vast majority of these abstainants are NOT anarchists! Perhaps you are right, but apathy in the face of the establishment is the first step. Perhaps we may yet change it to a meaningful, revolutionary, anarchy-seeking apathy.

Why not? The requisite dissatisfaction is there. Aggravate this into positive unrest, bitterness and resentment; stir in a little conscious anarchist philosophy; flavouring with a smattering of sabotage; spice with direct action and resistance; bring to the boil-and THE WHOLE BLOODY KITCHEN BLOWS UP.

'PRINT WORKER'.

We wish our comrades the best of luck and hope that their call will be answered not only by workers in print, but by workers from other industries.-Eds.



ANARCHY is Published by FREEDOM PRESS at 2s, on first Saturday of every month

PADDY FIELDS.

# books?

## We can supply any book in print

#### SECONDHAND

We have a large stock of secondhand books. Try us for what you want or better still, visit us.

This week's selection:

#### Society and the Criminal

Norwood East 12/6

- The Courage of His Convictions Tony Parker and Robert Allerton 8/6 German Journey (1948)
  - Ethel Mannin 5/-

Workers' Front (1938)

- Fenner Brockway 8/6
- Independent People Halldor Laxness 4/-Democracy Up-to-Date (1939)

Text of a talk given by ANDY ANDER-SON of 'Solidarity' at Conway Hall, LFA Easter Meeting.

T seems to me that we are at present going through a period where it is questionable whether the public meeting serves any useful purpose. Fewer people attend and the majority of them seem to have developed a deaf spot as far as what is being said is concerned. Consequently, the discussion is poor. All sorts of hares are put down and are chased in all directions.

There is a parallel between this and the Peace Movement which is particularly manifest at Easter. The Peaceniks are still chasing the 'march hare'. A march hare gets up to some strange antics. So do the marchers for peace.

Many participate only in a cynical way. Some of the main reasons given to me by those I talked to were: to meet the old crowd; good for laying a few different Easter chicks-or by getting laid by a few different cockerels.

Well, this is not so bad, but at the same time, with big grins on their faces, they chant: 'Hey, Hey LBJ, etc. . . . This an indication that the level of political consciousness of Peaceniks has deteriorated.

# Back to Involvement

protest could not develop into a criticism of all aspects of our society. Most did not see that to 'ban the bomb' implied a fundamental change in a society that produced the bomb-revolutionary change -a change to a good society-a socialist society.

And when the need for revolutionary change began to dawn on some of them (be it an ever so misty dawn)-when they saw that we are already involved in the third world war-that it's a new kind of war with new and highly developed techniques-a war which is fought by the powerful states within the framework of nuclear weapons-when this began to dawn, and an apparent easing of international tension caused their fears of nuclear war to subside, they felt aimless and isolated.

They look around at the world-there was still barbarism in Vietnam-millions dving of starvation in India-police state racialism in S. Africa, Rhodesia, etc. But lacking, as we said, a coherent system of 'ideas' and an analytical understanding of modern society, they looked to their past and the highlights of the Peace Movement. Let's face it, many of us had illusions about the consequences of the 'highlights'. Many in Solidarity thought (and rightly at the time) that this was the only mass movement that existed and that it represented a new and important development in the struggle for a free society. Although the movement is now dead, some of its achievements are still worth recounting. It advanced political consciousness of many thousands of people-and not only of those who participated. Large numbers of non-participants - sympathetic, neutral, opposition-behave and act differently because of its development. The Peace Movement re-introduced direct action as a viable and effective method to be used in mass and by small groups. Direct action is now a probable method in situations ranging throughout the spectrum of dissent and opposition

to rottenness in modern society .

In some actions people were forced to work extremely closely together and in secret. This was, organisationally, of a highly revolutionary nature.

There were, of course, plenty of 'Committee' people as well as CNDers who were opposed to secrecy-in fact, these people heartily condemned the best subversive actions of the late 50's-early 60's period. One began to believe that these people would get very annoyed if the bomb got banned by means other than their own.

Nevertheless, through the anti-bomb movement, large numbers of people made discoveries about society which they otherwise might never have known.

Illusions about the function of the state were cracked-that the friendly copper directing traffic at the street corner could become viciously brutal was seen at first hand. The Challenor (half-bricks) case showed that planting evidence was common practice. (Large numbers of convicted and remanded prisoners are aware of this today and have been for years past.) They saw how the courts and the law are manipulated and what was the real meaning of 'British Justice'. Through the 'Spies for Peace', they discovered with what cynical contempt the elite of the ruling class regarded, not only the mass of the people, but also their own class.

people-that the real struggle is a total struggle concerned with everything people do in society-with their real daily lives.

The Peaceniks lacked a bridge (and, for the most part, even the understanding of the need for a bridge) to the mass of ordinary people. They were disinterested in what was going on at Ford's.

University students were unable to see the important parallels between a car factory and a knowledge factory.

On the other hand, industrial militants were not interested in anything that did not relate directly to the industrial struggle: what is happening in prisons, schools, courts, local authority committee rooms, treatment of homeless, students, etc.-nothing to do with 'job speed-up' or the ratting of Trade Union bureaucrats.

We in Solidarity have attempted to show the absolute importance of passing from a partial critique of industry or of the warfare state, to a total one-a critique of authoritarian society as a whole. We have sought to show the intimate inter-relationships between every aspect of human activity, and to show how deeply modern bureaucratic capitalism penetrates every aspect of our lives. We seem to have had very little successnone as far as marchers are concerned. Marching from point A to point B not only goes no way towards these things, but in the situation of today, it is reactionary. It creates illusions that something is being done. It reinforces apathy and cynicism. Peace, in all its aspects, can only be achieved in a free society. A free society -a socialist society - can only be achieved by making such a critique of the total-of the whole condition of present society and the causes. In so doing, the main aim is to expose this society for what it is-a class society in which, through its hierarchical structure, the mass is manipulated and exploited by the minority. Thus, to assist in the development of the mass revolutionary consciousness.

Stafford Cripps 3/6 Appeasement's Child (Franco) Thomas J. Hamilton 4/-The Healing of Nations (1915) Edward Carpenter 3/-The War of Steel and Gold H. N. Brailsford 7/6

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L. G. Rylands 6/-**Ideal Commonwealths** 

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Campanella, etc. 5/-

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Merchants of Death

H. C. Engelbrecht and

F. C. Hanighen 5/-

Living Thoughts of Voltaire

presented by André Maurois 4/-Dream Life and Real Life

Olive Schreiner 3/-

New Hopes for a Changing World Bertrand Russell 4/-

Smouldering Freedom (Spain)

Isabel de Palencia 4/-

#### POSTAGE EXTRA

## Freedom Bookshop

(Open 2 p.m.-5.30 p.m. daily; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursdays; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays).

Some have been saying (for years) that to revive the Peace Movement we need to go back to the womb. Look at their published reasons for marching !!! CND: 'Time to stop the bombing in Vietnam, the killing, the burning of children. Time to stop backing America's war, which makes disarmament impossible, and brings us every day nearer to nuclear disaster'. Committee of 100: 'In your name the government is supporting American bombing of defenceless civilian villages in Vietnam, tolerating racialism in South Africa and Rhodesia, maintaining the Polaris submarine programme despite election promises, cutting aid to the underdeveloped countries'.

Even if one accepts that the majority of marchers are there for these reasons, then it's not just a matter of going back to the womb-it is back to spermatozoa -impotently caught inside the sheath! The reason for this 'back to the womb' -this looking backwards to the pastis the complete sterility of ideas in what's left of the Movement. Because they lack a coherent system of ideas, their moral

Through the events surrounding the Greek royal visit, some were forced to see that police state methods were only just below the surface.

Yet although these things, and several others, changed the attitude and behaviour of many thousands, only a few began to look at other aspects of society through more radical eyes-and fewer still developed an overall critique of society.

Generally, it was not seen that you cannot seriously work towards 'banning the bomb' without becoming involved in the day-to-day struggle of the mass of the

**Easter Anarchists** 

LETTER



men's rights is especially harrowing. A little-known fact is that 'boys of 15 can be forced to join the services by their parents who sign on their behalf. One father who did this was Mr. William Goldsworthy. . . .' Failure to get out of the army can lead to 'suicide attempts, slashed wrists, bedwetting, all indications of a broken spirit'. The first point of the NCCL's demands is to end long-term service contracts for teenagers under 18. Another subject, which is going to prove the most important this year, is that of drugs. We are informed that complaints from the public with accusations of 'planting' by the police are coming in thick and fast. An advisory group has been set up and a file is kept and complaints will be investigated. 'In the absence of democratic public control, the greater the need for the National Council for Civil Liberties', writes the anonymous author of this challenging pamphlet. And also for individual initiative, as Alfred Hinds will proudly point out to the delegates, when he will address them at 12.30 on Saturday,

#### **17a MAXWELL ROAD** FULHAM SW6 Tel: REN 3736

## FREEDOM PRESS PUBLICATIONS

SELECTIONS FROM 'FREEDOM' Vol 3 1953: Colonialism on Trial Vol 4 1954: Living on a Volcano Vol 5 1955: The Immoral Moralists Vol 6 1956: Oil and Troubled Waters Vol 7 1957: Year One-Sputnik Era Vol 8 1958: Socialism in a Wheelchair Vol 9 1959: Print, Press & Public Vol 10 1960: The Tragedy of Africa Vol 11 1961: The People in the Street Vol 12 1962: Pilkington v. Beeching Vol 13 1963: Forces of Law and Order Vol 14 1964: Election Years Bach volume: paper 7/6 cloth 10/6. The paper edition of the Selections is available to readers of FREEDOM at 5/6 post free.

**VERNON RICHARDS** Malatesta: His Life and Ideas cloth 21/-; paper 10/6 E. MALATESTA Anarchy Paper 1/-ALEXANDER BERKMAN ABC of Anarchism paper 2/6 ALEX COMFORT Delinquency 6d. **PAUL ELTZBACHER** Anarchism (Seven Exponents of the Anarchist Philosophy) cloth 21/-**RUDOLF ROCKER** Nationalism and Culture cloth 21/-CHARLES MARTIN Towards a Free Society 2/6 JOHN HEWETSON III-Health, Poverty and the State cloth 2/6; paper 1/-

MBUDSMAN or no, there is still plenty of work for the National Council of Civil Liberties. Last year they dealt with a total of 406 new cases, the greatest individual number being complaints against the police (68).

This year's conference (Conway Hall, April 28 and 29) has 33 points on its agenda, and every item is of great importance to libertarians. Northolt Anarchists submitted one on Stuart Christie. Other subjects include servicemen's rights, juries, demonstrations, racial discrimination, censorship, immigration appeals, fingerprinting, religious teaching, condition of gipsies, Sunday observance; all that the state proposes and we wish to dispose of.

The Council's report is contained in a concise factual pamphlet Civil Liberty 1967 (price 2/-). The chapter on service-

JOHN RETY.

## Marathon March Banned

THE GREEK PEACE MARCH from Marathon to Athens has once again been banned by the Greek Government. The March was due to take place this Sunday, April 16, but a telegram received today from the organisers of the March stated: GOVERNMENT BANNED MARATHON MARCH PLEASE ASK PRIME MINISTER (KANALOPOLIS) TO ALLOW IT. REPRESENTATIVE MUST YOUR COME.

In London a March in solidarity with the Marathon March is being organised by the League for Democracy in Greece and the Committee of 100. The March will start with a short meeting at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 16, followed by a march through the West End, laying a wreath on Byron's statue and delivering a letter to the Greek Embassy.

Dear Comrades,

Do you not think that after a year of hard work on your own or in a small group, a young Anarchist may not tend to find himself in the position of being an Easter Anarchist?

For 361 days we fight a lone and what often seems a losing battle and for four days we are a large group with banners and flags. It is only natural for young people to let off steam.

I cannot see this changing in the sort of society we live in and are products of. Fraternally,

Slough, Bucks. S.R.-Easter Anarchist.

#### CORRECTION

-Surrealist Festival in Exeterof course!-

Exeter is in fact in Devon and John Lyle will be running a surrealist festival there from April 24 to May 20. For more, and doubtless more correct, details write John Lyle, 1 Deanery Place, Palace Gate, Exeter.

J.R.

#### **Anarchist Federation of Britain** Samuel (Humanist). Devon.

April 29.

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

\*Except in London-see below.

Get in touch with Stephen Richards, 25 North Vale Road, Timperley, Cheshire. ABERDEEN GROUP. Correspondence to Michael Day, 86 Rosemount Place, 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. Secretary: Geoff Charlton, 8 Lightwoods Hill, Bearwood, Smethwick, 41. Regular meetings at Geoff and Caroline's above address, top flat. First Wednesday of month. First Wednesday of month. 'Resistance' Group, Birmingham Peace Action Centre (formerly CND Office), Factory Road, Birmingham, 19.

5 p.m. 'Christianity the Debit Side'. Gerald PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Contact J. Hill, 79 Underlane, Plymstock, Plymouth, **READING ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks. **ROCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP.** Contact

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

NORTH WALES: Bangor. Contact Geoff Brown, 39 Caellepa, Bangor, Caerns.

SOMERSET. John and Jill Driver wish to contact local libertarians, 4 Obridge Road, Taunton, Somerset.

VOLINE Nincteen-Seventeen (The Russian Revolution Betrayed) cloth 12/6 The Unknown Revolution (Kronstadt 1921, Ukraine 1918-21) doth 12/6

E. A. GUTKIND The Expanding Environment (Illustrated) boards 8/6 GEORGE BARRETT The First Person (Selections) 2/6 MICHAEL BAKUNIN Marxism, Freedom and the State (ed.) K. J. Kenafick (paper) 7/6 MARIE-LOUISE BERNERI Neither East nor West (Selected Writings) (paper) 6/-

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). April 23 Peter le Mare Is Libertarian Teaching Possible?

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

third Thursday of each month. NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesez. Meetings first and third Wednesday of the month at Jeannie's, 6 Epsom Close, Northelt Park, Middlesex, at 7.30 p.m.

EALING ANARCHIST GROUP. Get into touch with Ken King, 54 Norwood Road, Southall.

#### **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 Rooum's, now at 13 Savernake Road, London, N.W.3.

#### **REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS**

ALTRINCHAM ANARCHIST YOUTH GROUP.

**UNIVERSITY OF ASTON GROUP.** Contact: Dave Kipling, 87 Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham 24.

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 Caowley, 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 Lanc, Glasgow, C.1.

HERTS. GROUP. Contact Stuart Mitchel at 46 Hughendon Road, Marshalswick, St. Albans, Herts.

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, ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson. Sunday, April 23.

Emyl Davies, 22 St, Margaret's Street, Rochester. Fortnightly meetings.

SHEFFIELD. Contact Robin Lovell, c/e 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 Rattray, 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. Gerry Bree, 16 Faulkner Square, Liverpool, 8. Meetings weekly. 'Freedom' Sales-Pier Head, Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings. MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Dave Poulson, Flat 9, 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

WEST SUFFOLK. Please write to Carl Pinel, 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.

**ROCHDALE.** Please contact Richard Crawford. 4 Hargreaves Street, Sudden, Rochdale.

SOUTH-WEST MIDDLESEX. Contact P. Goody. 36 Norman Avenue, Hanworth, Middlesex.

NORTH EAST ESSEX. Would readers interested in proposed group write to P. Newell, "Maybush", Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex.

#### ABROAD

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

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

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

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

U.S.A. VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE. Discussion 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. Anybody interested in Direct action/anarchy contact G. J. Nasir, 606 Matheson Avenue, Winnipeg, 17, Manitoba.

BELGIUM: LIEGE. Provos, c/o Jacques Charlier, 11 Avenue de la Laiterie, Sclessint-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, Cloquet, Minn. 55720, USA.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

# UTOPIA

#### Continued from page 1

Area (2) would be completed by the late summer of 1968.
Area (3) was not yet decided on.
It had been decided to make an open space of the old gasworks site (by the creek and the old pie factory) and near the old site of Cremorne Gardens. To do this they were going to restore Sandford Manor (reputed once to be the home of Nell Gwyn). This all seemed to be a veritable Utopia.

So that the whole operation could go through its planned phases, there would have to be a 'decanting' operation—and even the chairman apologised for the word. When scheme (i) was completed tenants from houses involved in scheme (ii) would be temporarily moved into accommodation newly completely and then moved back as scheme (ii) houses were completed. Scheme (iii) seemed to be in a highly provisional stage.

It was estimated that the cost including purchases of property and payment of compensation would be £4,500,000. There were loud mutterings from what is known as the Ratepayers and it was asked what would this mean in increases in rates. This was not known, which was no comfort to the Ratepayers. They might comfort themselves with the fact that somebody found a £14 million clerical error last week. There was a question about rentsagain there was no answer except the algebraical one that council rents are always one-and-a-third times the Gross Rateable Value. Since the GRV would not be determined until the property was erected, it was still an unknown quantity but the chairman left the Ratepayers under no illusion that housing could ever be an economic proposition. Some confused dialogue followed about valuation of properties for compensation. The scheme seemed to be that the council valuer arrived at a figure which was endorsed (or not) by the District Valuer and if not agreed was put to arbitration. However in a final resort they could have Compulsory Purchase Orders which would necessitate a Public Inquiry. The usual thing was for the council to buy property at the market value.

The chairman replied that they were borrowing at 4% and were not employing direct labour but the Ministry would pay between 50% and 60% of the cost. A disenchanted voice from the audience corrected this to 'the taxpayers'.

Great consternation was caused by the announcement that only 50% of the antique shops in the neighbourhood could be accommodated in 'Antique Corner' which was part of the scheme. It was claimed by a spokesman for the dealers that they had done a great deal for the borough and they were entitled to some consideration and compensation. Nothing was said of what the borough had done for them by helping them to unload junk on the suckers who, fooled by the swinging King's Road image, venture into our end of the King's Road to get rooked, with kitchen chairs at 30/- each for example. It was pointed out from the platform that the rents which the antique dealers paid were low compared with the other end of the borough.

By this time the meeting was withering away and although the chairman had said they would go on all night if necessary he seemed to think he had got down to the hard core and would see that anyone who wished to, could speak to him or any of the other officials personally on the floor of the meeting. I then remembered where I had seen him before: he was chairman of the local CND, at least until 1963.

## **'Russian Premier Re-Elected'**-Morning Star

IN SPITE OF (or because of) non-budget Labour Party lost control of Greater London Council and many other councils. A Welsh Nationalist councillor was defeated and a Cornish Nationalist was elected. The John Hampden New Freedom Party (Lewisham) seems to have sunk without trace. . . .

APATHY SEEMS TO have been rampant and electors stayed away in droves. The *Morning Star* revealed that six per cent. of the Soviet population are members of the Soviet Communist Party, this includes probationary candidate members. 48,000 applicants were turned down last year and 62,868 were expelled for behaviour incompatible with the behaviour of a communist. . . .

STOCKHOLM CO-OP has disclosed that they still have a record of Lemin's purchases in 1917 while on his way from Switzerland to Petrograd. He bought a suit and a pair of shoes but no more, saying, 'I am going to Petrograd to start a revolution, not a gentleman's outfitters.' It is also recorded that he sent a shirt to the laundry but had to leave before it was returned (says the Sun). It is now owned by a Stockholm Socialist.' A reconstruction of Lenin's arrival at the Finland station was re-enacted as part of the fiftieth anniversary. . . . FOLLOWING A LETTER in Tribune urging the Labour 'left' to join the Communist Party, Peter Sedgwick writes on the expulsion (by the District Committee) of an Oxford communist for working for the wrong Vietnam peace group, for selling The Marxist and for forming 'faction' inside the party. Tribune prints an article by Geoff Coggan, of Nottingham, about the reinstatement of himself and two local members (with 'full rights') in the Labour Party. The article is entitled 'Why We Won', and Sara Barker (National Agent for the Labour Party) gives a better explanation. 'The National Executive Committee [LP] having been advised that there were difficult questions of law regarding the procedure at the inquiry, decided that it was not in the interests of the party that there should be costly and protracted litigation.' Messrs. Coggan & Co. had issued a writ. . . .

FLAVIUS IN Tribune calls attention to Newsletter's stating that (a) 'at the end of 1964 the majority of the Young Socialists guided by the SLL, split from the Labour Party' and (b) 'Tomorrow it may well be necessary for members of the SLL to infikrate into the Labour Party to provide a leadership to a left wing moving in a revolutionary direction . . . this is not the case today'. . . RED FLAG, the organ of the Revolutionary Workers' Party (Trotskyist), has a 45word headline which gets the Jon Quixote award for headline of the year, but revolutionary solidarity with the toiling masses of our print-work comrades forbids their exploitation by printing it. . . VERA DARLINGTON, Events Organiser for the Morning Star, writing on bazaars in that paper says, 'Alderman Fred Brown, opening Dartford bazaar, said he had immediately consented to do so, and looked into his diary later, because although he often disagreed with what the Morning Star printed he realised the real need for "this independent paper of the Left".' . . .

personating Ernesto Che Guevara. The newspaper reports the man has 'an unmistakenably Argentinian accent.' Martial law has been proclaimed in Bolivia and the Communist Party and the Workers' Revolutionary Party have been outlawed. . . .

FIVE HUNDRED SIKHS started demolition work at a burnt-out chapel site they own for the purpose of crecting a new temple. Hammersmith Borough Council have been recommended by their housing committee to secure a compulsory purchase order on the site. On the eve of the GLC elections, Hammersmith Council withdrew the proposed order. However, this did not save the retiring councillors. . . .

A MAN WHO TOASTED 'Harold Wilson and the Labour Party' instead of 'The Queen' at a Labour Party dinner in Wolverhampton said, 'This was all a mistake. I must take the blame. . . I feel really guilty about this and I am very worried about the effects this could have not only on the municipal elections but also on the Brierley Hill by-election result.' Its effect on the Queen is not known. . . .

A shopkeeper got up and asked what compensation would he have for his service to the public which he was now losing. It had been my impression that I had always paid him cash and it is impossible to feel pity for these small shopkeepers who, in the main, are big ones who have failed to make the grade. A radical from Holmead Road with a Scots accent congratulated the council on the scheme and asked if they were employing direct labour and how much interest they were paying. He added, 'I didn't know till I came here that this was such a middle-class area.' It is difficult to know what this scheme will mean to the residents of the area. There will be an increase in the amenities but we still have the problem of what to do with the gasworks (the chairman, in one of his euphoric moments, referred to the possibility of the gasworks moving), the problem of Stamford Bridge Stadium and its attendant car parking is still with us, and finally we have the problem of the new flyover zooming past the third storey of the Wandon Road flats.

Without conceding any points to the Ratepayers, it is quite obvious that the rates will go up and the new rents will be higher. It is probable that some improvement will take place in the communal life of Moore Park Road Area and the children will have somewhere to play in safety.

However, as we pointed out in FREEDOM (18.7.64), this latter problem could have been solved without a drastic solution such as the present one.

As anarchists we do not believe that

A TIMES CORRESPONDENT in Bolivia reported the existence of a 'Castro-type' communist guerilla base in the jungle. The Morning Star reports El Heraldo de Mexico stating that Bolivian guerillas are being duped by an Argentinian imABLE SEAMAN MICHAEL GOLDSWORTHY, aged 22, appeared before his commanding officer at the Royal Naval Barracks at Portsmouth and was convicted of desertion and sentenced to 72 days' detention—he was advised by the Sun and other newspapers to give himself up. In order that he may receive a conscientious objectors tribunal followed by a possible discharge, it is necessary that he be sentenced to ninety days; a practice rare in such cases in the navy. This is known as 'cat and mouse' treatment....

#### JON QUIXOTE.

LETTER

come from Thich Thien Hao, whom Russell calls 'the leader of the Buddhist hierarchy' on p. 78. My comment was '... he is in the NLF and quite unrepresentative of the majority of the Buddhists.' This stands; Russell does admit his membership of the NLF quite separately elsewhere (p. 59), but he nowhere corrects his assertion of this monk's representative status.

Fourth, as to the questioning of my sources: I would think Adam Roberts.

estimates actually ranged from 80,000 to 500,000. He now asserts, seeming to use *Time* magazine as a source, that a million were killed (*Peace News*, March 31), but offers no proof, and no explanation of the change of estimate. Is *Time* perhaps, one of the superior and reliable sources he recommends me to consult? He imagined that, at least at Easter, 1966, the majority of the peace movement wished to commit violence and strongly implies

VIETNAM –a Reply Dear Sirs,

Malcolm Caldwell, in his letter concerning my review of Bertrand Russell's War Crimes in Vietnam, criticised it: (a) because of alleged 'countless mistakes', not one of which he mentions; (b) because of my sources which he considers unreliable; and (c) because I have no direct experience of Vietnam. The only ground for these criticisms which appears in his letter is his display of his academic position as Lecturer in SE Asian History which seems to give the impression-in its isolation-of authority and academic impartiality. My own current academic research concerns the close textual criticism of descriptions of war in fiction, non-fictional prose and war propaganda: parts of Russell's book provide interesting examples of the last area. How Dr. Caldwell comes to lend his reputation to the latter, I'll show later. First, a question: does Dr. Caldwell lend this to all the Russell book-for example, the attribution to the New York Times of casualty estimates which actually came from the NLF and the distorting even of that, or the omission of details of Viet Minh, N. Vietnamese and NLF atrocities, or Russell's grotesque simplifications that 'North Vietnam decided to become Communist' (p. 78) or that the NLF 'would descend on a village and acquire the support of its inhabitants' (p. 78) or that the US plans to make war on China and rule the world (p. 73)? If he alleges .these to be true, will he give detailed substantiation? If he thinks them

the transfer of ownership of property from private to municipal hands is necessarily an advance, indeed the invasion of privacy by councils can be much greater and the necessity of councils to show orthodox profits is very often greater than that of private owners.

Meanwhile ..., where does Freedom Press decant or will the Council recant now it is Tory? Or the GLC not play ball now they are Tory?

JACK ROBINSON.

PALOMARES—70 Casualties

THE WORRIES of the Spaniards living in this region have not ended with the finding and recovery of the hydrogen bombs which, one year ago, were released by an American B53 bomber after colliding with a refuelling aircraft KC135, both destroyed in the air above this peaceful town.

The people who caused the tragedy now try to wash their hands of it, dividing a few crumbs amongst the damned who raise their cries to heaven.protesting against the miserable sum of 3 per cent. which has been conceded to them for their destroyed belongings as a result of the contaminated fallout which rained from above on this industrious community. The rich uncle never looks good when he pretends to be a philanthropist and with teasing remarks, avoiding their eyes, throws a few cents to the 'nephews' at their feet. However, amongst the malcontents of Palomares, about fifty of them, including a diminutive woman known locally as the 'red duchess', decided to take their protest to the American Embassy in Madrid. However 'birds

of a feather flock together', and the Falange and Civil Guards blocked their way and the local bus company was forbidden to take them to the capital. . . A heavy frost which fell in this region (something rather unusual) when the tomato crop was at its ripest has left the country people exposed to poverty. One wonders if this apparently natural happening has any connection with radioactive contamination by Plutonium which was disseminated over all the region. Only the scientists, those who experiment with the lives and extermination of humanity, can give an answer to the simple question of the troubled inhabitants of Palomares. The experts in the matter, referring to the dangers of radioactivity say 'the effect is permanent and progressive'. There are in Palomares seventy citizens affected by the Plutonium scattered by the bombs who are kept under constant observation and vigilance by Franco's experts since, from the little that is known, and the less that is told to the public in these matters, it is known, at least, that Plutonium produces cancer of the bones. Since they don't know what exactly is the active life of this element, the people who caused the catastrophe wish to wash their hands and remain free from all responsibility within two years, a period fixed by themselves, and leave the Franco authorities to settle the matter and bury the dead.

not the most expert, but one of the most honest commentators on Vietnam in British journalism. I also cite Bernard Fall (The Two Vietnams, Street Without Joy, Vietnam Witness, 1953-1966), one of the severest and most telling critics of the war and of atrocities and suppression by all parties to the struggle, and E. J Hammer (The Struggle for Indochina). Other works which support the facts in my review are: Philip Devillier's Histoire du Vietnam de 1940 a 1952 and (with J. Lacouture) La Fin du Guerre: Indochine 1954; Lacouture's Le Vietnam entre Deux Paix; Paul Mus' Vietnam: Sociologie d'une Guerre; Lancaster's The Emancipation of Indo-China. I urge FREEDOM readers to consult these works for themselves, rather than rely on brief articles (my own included). I've also read the studies by Burchett, Honey, Hoang Van Chi, Crozier and Warner which, apart from their obvious biases, seem to disqualify themselves by questionable handling of evidence.

Fifth, if Dr. Caldwell attributes 'countless mistakes' to my review, he should specify them in detail—I challenge him to do so—or withdraw his totally unsupported assertion.

Sixth, his display of his university lectureship. South East Asian history is not a substitute, for detailed argument. I'm sure he knows more about South approval of this. He wishes for a peace movement committed solely to 'the defeat of America's present leaders' and their imperialism, not to Russia's or China's (Sanity, June, 1966).

I find it very hard to doubt Dr. Caldwell's sincerity, mainly because of his articles on the problems of underdevelopment (though the motives of some of Lord Russell's employees seem very much more of a mystery). However, it is plain from the above instances that he often allows his passionate commitments to overwhelm the procedures for testing and presenting evidence with which he must be acquainted from his academic experience. I welcome any additional information about Vietnam from the latter source whether it makes me alter my views or supports them. Hard facts about the war can only help to bring it to an end more quickly. Books and articles like Lord Russell's can only serve to prolong the war and escalate it. That is Ralph Schoenman's and apparently Lord Russell's stated intention in any case (through the VSC and the urging of Russia to join the hostilities). Is it Dr. Caldwell's?

Yours sincerely,

GODFREY FEATHERSTONE.

Birmingham, 16

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(Source: Buletin de Informacion, New York, Jan., 1967), translator: j.w.s.

Please help despatch Freedom & Anarchy untrue, will he explain their presence in the book?

Second, it is a valid comment to say that I have no direct experience of Vietnam, but Dr. Caldwell's brief trip on behalf of the Russell War Crimes Tribunal does not seem a sign of his superior reliability: I would very much like to acquire such experience, but would refuse finances from such a dubious source.

Third, after reading Ralph Schoenman's (not Russell's) unconvincing reply to Adam Roberts' article in New Society, I do realise that there are two sentences in my own article which are open to wilful misinterpretation and I'd like to correct their emphasis: (a) I wrote 'all non-communist elements are virtually ignored, except for the Buddhists whose fierce criticism of the NLF is omitted.' They are virtually, but Russell does refer to the Democratic Party of Vietnam which is based in France, not Vietnam and to non-communist elements within the NLF (on p. 54 Russell absurdly asserts that the NLF is 'non-communist' and 'neutralist'). He does not describe or very inadequately describes the main nationalist elements outside the NLF. (b) Russell's atrocity estimates usually East Asia than I do and I'm equally sure that the use to which he puts this knowledge makes him unreliable as a source of information. For Dr. Caldwell is a passionate supporter of the NLF and unqualifiedly equates it with 'the people of Vietnam' (Sanity, May, 1966), and, while rightly condemning US bombing atrocities, makes not the slightest reference to NLF atrocities (Sanity, February, 1967). He expresses a no doubt felt compassion for some of the war's victims, but seems to support NLF victory and thus a continuation of the war and atrocities by both sides.

Dr. Caldwell's accounts of other conflict situations inspire no confidence at all. He trusts Russia and China not to use nuclear weapons, says that the Chinese threat is purely an American myth, that 'day after day America's leaders seriously threaten to drop nuclear bombs on China' and that the US is the only country likely to use the bomb (Sanity, June, 1966). While 'regretting' Hungary and Tibet, he asks that 'a sense of proportion' be kept about them! This sense of proportion led him to assert, without proof or source, that the recent Indonesian slaughters resulted in half a million dead (Sanity, July, 1966), when



WEEK 15, APRIL 15, 1967: Income: Sales and Subs.: £965 Expenses: 15 weeks at £90: £1350

DEFICIT: £385

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\*Denotes Regular Contributor. Gift of Books-Belfast: M.F. **Roberts** Arunde What Next?

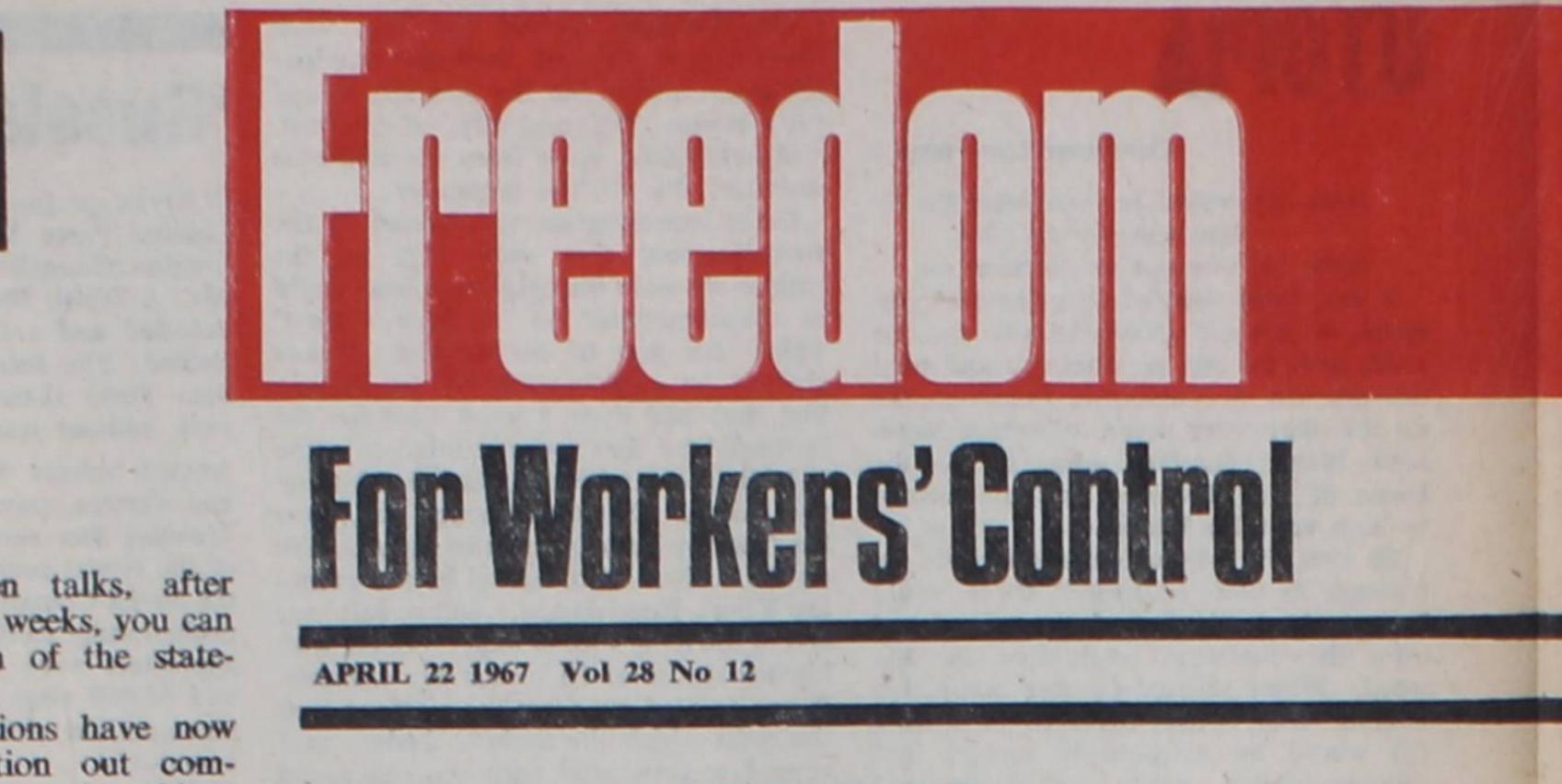
**DOLICE** were out again at the Stockport works of Roberts Arundel last night, as the first batch of over 30 redundant scabs left the factory. Large numbers of pickets laughed and jeered as the scabs came out.

For the pickets, this was the first ray of sunshine in a week in which negotiations had once again broken down. After an hour's discussions at the Ministry of Labour on Monday, the Union representatives walked out when the Company officials announced that they had no authority to negotiate a settlement, and that they would have to

write to America for instructions. This latest instance is just another act in something which, if it was not so tragic for the men involved. would be a farce. No matter how good the local officials, they are tied by the rules and in a dispute like this, constitutionalism isn't much good. As one local shop steward said to me, 'If we'd have had a wellestablished shop stewards' committee in the area, we could have settled this dispute in less than a month, with or without the officials'. When you think what unofficial action achieved during the week of the mass pickets, in forcing the

Company to reopen talks, after refusing to do so for weeks, you can appreciate the truth of the statement.

However, the Unions have now ruled unofficial action out completely, and, consequently, things seemed to have reached stalemate. What has happened at Roberts Arundel demonstrates the real need for the formation of unofficial shop stewards' committees, and there does seem a definite possibility of an attempt being made to form one in this area.



## **Issue of Control at Metcalfe's**

A CCORDING to statistics, the average I length of an industrial dispute in this country is less than a day. Few of them ever get a mention in the press and yet many of them are over one of the most important issues in factories today, the issue of control. Who controls the factory, men or management?

One of the more militant factories in the Stockport area is the Romiley engineering firm of Davis and Metcalfe. Since January of this year alone, there has been three short disputes over issues relating to control. The right of management to move men from job to job, an attempt to force the firm to employ a local militant who had been blacklisted

### **Contact** Column This column exists for mutual aid.

by every other firm in the area, and this week a strike over the question of job timing.

About a year ago Metcalfes shut down small works they had in Dukinfield and brought all the personnel up to Romiley. The management, in return for the men moving, promised that they should be kept together in an extension which was built on to the Romiley works, and that agreements that were operative in Dukinfield should stand. One of these was that the timing of jobs should be done only by a wristwatch. Yet in the rest of the factory 'a fly-back stopwatch was used'. Recently the management went back on their promises and tried to standardise job timing throughout the factory with the use of the stopwatch. The stewards refused and used this occasion to press for the use of a wristwatch for job timing in the Romiley part of the firm.

Then, last Friday, late in the after- the men know it.

shop workers from the Dukinfield part claiming that they were redundant. On the following Monday, two new machine operators were started. The stewards immediately went to see, the management demanding that the two new workers be sacked and two of the others reinstated. The management refused to discuss it with them, so the men downed tools, and after a meeting outside the gates, went home. On Tuesday, following another meeting with the management, they went back. The management agreed that all six workers would be taken back and not only that, but a wristwatch will now be used for all job timing throughout the factory.

Once the men were out, the stewards decided to press for as much as they could get, and they got it all; with tight production schedules the management just can't afford to have stoppages, and

# GIBRALTAR

NEWS FROM

THERE EXISTS no Libertarian Group as such, in Gibraltar! Perhaps we don't need one, for we have here an excellent branch of the Transport & General Workers' Union. This 2,000strong T&G branch has progressive figure. policies and quite a few local libertarians can be found amongst its leaders. Due to their personal qualities, these men have a popular appeal which transcends its political limitations.

The recent Biennial General Meeting of the Gibraltar T&GWU (Gibraltar's only industrial Union) was a clear demonstration of that Union's progressive intentions. The motions put by the militant dockyard section (the Union's biggest), in particular, showed something of a libertarian leaning! It was the dockyard workers who recently indicated that they would prefer to free the Union from its connections with the political parties here.

The first motion backed by the dockyard called for 'the formation of a Co-Operative Society in Gibraltar'. This would be organised by the Union, with a view to containing price increases, cutting out 'the middle man', and providing services for members. During the discussion of another motion, a dockyard delegate described how he would like the intended new premises to include a rest home for the old members, and a school of further education where young workers might study. Both these motions were passed. Among the other motions passed by the meeting was one from the dockyard, attacking the system here whereby local workers work a 42-hour week, whilst British employees contracted from England only do 40. Another motion asked that efforts be made to obtain three weeks' holiday with pay, and a motion recommending a revised pay structure also went through. However, two motions supported by the dockyard were resisted by the Executive, which remitted them. The first, to be held up, was a motion asking that the 'Executive Committee press the Government (Gibraltar) to release information to allow a study of the distribution of wealth in relation to taxpayers in Gibraltar to be made'. The wealthy here don't seem to pay income tax, super-tax, or company tax, on

anything like the same scale as in England. Whilst it is known 75 persons, out of 25,000 living here, receive an annual income of over £5,000, it is not known by how much they exceed this

The other motion remitted suggested that we reject the principle of calculating 'cost of living' increases on a percentage basis, as 'this progressively increases the gap between the lower and higher income groups'. Obviously, the intention here is to bring about a wage equality by way of a fixed rise in incomes for everyone, and so decreasing the pay demarcations between different grades of workers. This is important, because the Union often finds itself fighting for percentage pay increases, which are later claimed by high grade Civil Servants, in this way they get the biggest rise for the least effort. Needless to say if the Government functionaries think they're worth more, they should demand 'responsibility' money, not a 'cost of living' allowance. With the basic wage of many workers at under £8 a week, and prices rising due to trade problems with Spain, the people here are becoming restless. The teachers have already struck once over pay and are threatening a longer strike next term. A housewives' organisation is considering a boycott of fruit and vegetables as a protest against price rises. A labour shortage is also being created by Spain, who in the past provided cheap labour, but is now gradually withdrawing her workers. Much will now depend on the T&GWU of Gibraltar which, though not exactly to our taste (it has the English T&G Rule Book), is syndicalist in spirit, if not in structure. This Union is responsible, in that it is willing to tackle the price problem by starting a Co-Op, and technical education by running a school. On wages, they're militant and have just turned down a 5% wage rise offered by the employers, and subsequently raised their own demand from 9% to 12%. But, above all, these people are anxious! Anxious that their sons will not become waiters and shoeblacks of tourism, as some businessmen, shopkeepers and politicians here would like, but become well-trained industrial workers. T&G WORKER.

Donations towards cost of typesetting will be welcome.

Unfurnished Accommodation Wanted. thirties, Responsible gentleman, exemplary tenant, requires spacious self-contained flat/house, minimum three bedrooms, central London, quiet surroundings. Maximum seven guineas inclusive. No premium. Could decorate. Reciprocal references. Box 52.

- Colour Film Show. Aldermaston March. Easter 1967. Wednesday, April 26, at 8.30 p.m. at Lucas Arms (upstairs room), 245 Grays Inn Road, W.C.1. Syndicalist Workers' Federation.
- Duplicator, Anybody? Needed for important Vietnam project. Few months loan or hire, or would buy if very cheap. 106 Regents Park Road, London, N.W.1 or phone 01-272 7200 (Brian McGee).
- Open University. At London School of Economics, Houghton St., Aldwych, W.C.2 until April 26. Twenty-four hours a day. Everyone interested is 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.

noon, the management sacked six machine

NORTHERN WORKER.



**CEORGE WOODCOCK**, TUC General

Secretary, had a meeting with Mr. Stewart last Friday. It was a very brief meeting at which Stewart informed Woodcock that although he appreciated the fact that the TUC would love to impose their own form of wage freeze, the Government could not risk any thaw around the edges. Therefore, the Government would have to implement Part II of Prices and Incomes. By the time this article is in print Stewart will have made a public statement.

John Davies, Director General of Confederation of British Industry, also saw Stewart for half an hour. Stewart was informed that Confederation members were very disturbed about the granting of Civil Service pay increases.

One thing about this Labour Government, it can act and the play that they are performing now ('Democracy') deserves an 'Oscar'. One can always make a show of consulting with the interested parties, if the outcome is predetermined beforehand.

A part-time worker doing three days a week, or relative to Ray Gunter's wages of £9,750 a year?

Gunter still has to decide what he is going to do about the Retail Drapery Council's award which the PIB classified as 'too much'.

If the Minister of Labour and the Government have the criminal audacity to interfere with the award, this action will push all lower paid workers further down the wage scale because a precedent will have been set.

Will we worms ever turn? And I don't mean by playing silly buggers with ballot boxes, Tweedledum in this year and Tweedledee in next, but by taking action which means that the people have had enough of the 'ins' and then 'outs' but want all 'outs'-permanently.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

Box 50.

Former Junkie. Wants job and accommodation in London. Box 54.

- Civil Liberties Social. Bar, music, entertainment (performers wanted). 7-11.30 p.m. Saturday, April 29, Camden Studios, Camden Street, N.W.1, in aid of NCCL. Tickets 5/- at door. Accommodation Available - London. Medium sized room in unfurnished s/c flat Camden Town, about £3 p.w. Whole flat (2 large/2 medium rooms, k. & b.) on three year lease from mid-May, £500 p.a. Box 53. 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.
- 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 with to make contact let us know.

This Government has pulled every stroke in the book and only two unions have shown any signs of fight (irrespective of whether we agree with their methods or not), ASSET and DATA, and another 'stroke' is on the way. According to the Government the Wages Councils' structure will have to be changed. Ray Gunter makes the point that Wages Councils are concerned with statutory minimums and the practice has grown up among employers of paying the increases in statutory minima to all their workers regardless of their actual rates or earnings. Therefore, pay increases which might be fully justified in the case of the lowest paid workers, are as a consequence enjoyed by many workers who were relatively well paid.

I think it is fair to say that the majority of the workers covered by Wages Councils are those who are poorly organised and who are in the type of industries that cannot be measured production-wise.

Therefore, even if we accept the fact that these workers or some of them, enjoy the benefits of the 'wage drift' their earnings are still bloody low. The word relative is mentioned. Relative to whom?



CAR MANUFACTURERS have been doing a lot of thinking recently on the wage structure that they operate in their plants. Rootes in Coventry are trying, with considerable opposition from their workers (see FREEDOM 28.1.67 and 18.2.67), to change from piecework to a measured day work. The British Motor Holdings (formerly BMC) are also thinking of changing from piecework.

Fords already have a form of measured day work and pay on an hourly basis. However they have been dissatisfied with this and so, about a year ago, with union co-operation, a firm of management consultants, Urwich Orr and Partners, were called in to do job evaluation. This week their findings, together with Fords proposals for a new wage structure, were presented to the trade unions and the rank and file.

their own grade. Merit money will be replaced by service increments and adult training will be devolved so as to create a career path. The management proposes that an average 4d. per hour will be paid when the new scheme starts and another 4d. after a year. This will give the top grade workers 10/9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per hour.

The groundwork from which these proposals were evolved was started last June by the management consultants. 'Job profiles' (descriptions of jobs) were made, 1,800 in all, covering every type of hourly paid job. They were agreed to by eight different operation review committees, consisting of six men each, including some nominated by the shop stewards. From this mass of information a comparison of jobs was made from which the new gradings were derived.

This whole business has run its course The new structure will abolish the without, to my knowledge, any resistpresent four grades of labour and will ance. There has been co-operation all introduce five new ones. Women will the way from union officials and from now be graded according to the job workers on the shop floor. But what they perform, instead, as previously, in will Ford workers get in return for

what the management describes as a productivity deal? Eightpence over two years, an increase which is less than one could expect from an ordinary wage claim, and in return Fords want what they call 'improved overtime response' with more three-shift working and the abolition of demarcation.

These proposals will not only leave the Ford worker financially worse off than his brothers in BMH, but will give the management more control over work loads as well as overtime during booms. This new system will mean a speed-up of the whole work process. Fords want to start it in September and I cannot see the Government objecting. Their trade unions have not accepted the system as such, but I think they will only want an extra copper or two or a rough edge smoothed off.

Fords turned down a union claim for an all-round increase last December. Ford workers should do the same now with these new proposals.