# Anarchist Weekly

MAY 13 1967 Vol 28 No 14

'IN GREECE, WE WOULD SHOOT YOU!

AST WEEK Peace News used this headline after the Greek Embassy 'demonstration'. I can't think of a better one. An Embassy official is said to have shouted these words to the non-violent resisters that Friday night, as the angry police poured in. It can be seen, not only as the explanation and justification of the audacity of the actionists, but also as a warning.

Here, they will not shoot us yet, for we are not yet that dangerous and they are not yet that threatened. They will frame us on assault charges, of course, and show the world the damage we committed in our 'affray'. This is to be expected. They will even apologise to the Greek Fascists on our behalf, as if they can speak for anyone but their paltry selves. And of course it was true, the headlines of next morning, that a mob ran riot through the Greek Embassy, breaking down doors and scattering papers. Indeed it was true-people were punched, and kicked as well, and put in fear of injury. The mob was dressed in blue uniforms, that is the only thing the papers forgot to mention.

It is difficult to attempt a rational analysis of the sudden change in the peace movement (or the 'liberation left' as some so delightfully term it). No one seems in any doubt as to what has happened; movement and authorities both regard the Embassy coup as a conscious revolutionary action undertaken with great daring and superb planning by a group of people who are totally serious in their methods and intentions. As to why and how, one cannot say. We suddenly see the long-awaited fusion of the two sections of the movement. From the old Direct Action Committee and Committee of 100 have come the veterans of jails and beatings and struggles which, over ten years, have

## DOLLAR LEAFLETS: FRAME-UP FEARED

THE CASE against Terry Chandler, Mervyn Estrin, and another comrade with regard to the anti-Vietnam War dollar leaflets, has taken a sinister turn. To any intelligent person it is evident that these leaflets are not meant as currency, would not be accepted as such and further they bear a slogan on the reverse side under 'IN GOD WE TRUST' 'Is this worth all the murder and slaughter in Vietnam'.

The fact that comrades Chandler and Estrin are charged under the Forgery Act would suggest either that the police have gone raving mad (what are they doing with all those drugs they confiscate?) or, which is just as likely, that they wish to make the forgery charge 'stick'. If the latter is the case, here is the beginning of a new Challenor case, the consequences of which cannot yet be foreseen.

Nevertheless we must be on our guard. Both Terry Chandler and Mervyn Estrin have been a thorn in the flesh of the warfare state for a long time. Comrade Estrin is not as well known as Terry but nevertheless he has organised many demonstrations in his own district (Edgware) where there is a very active group.

Now that Terry has been arrested on the Greek Embassy demo this is a chance for the police to 'throw the book' at him. We must not allow them to get away with this. This charge is too ridiculous to be true. Let us all take these leaflets to our local bank and demand seven shillings for them on the morning that our friends are brought to court. A national 'cash-in'.

JOHN RETY.

forged them into the most experienced and courageous and steel-hearted group of non-violent resisters outside America. And from the consciously revolutionary fringe groups of the far anarchist left have come the cool-headed and brilliant organisational minds which the Gandhian non-violent movement lacked. At last, with Greece as a catalyst, the two groups have joined together. The combination is explosive.

I believe it would have come soon in any case, and was sparked now because Greece is a situation which is felt to be worth the risk; unlike Vietnam, an action here could have a tangible effect in that unhappy country. We have moved past the days when street demonstrations of propaganda and personal witness are enough. The threat to kidnap the Greek Ambassador may or may not have been based on fact. Its very utterance was probably enough to save lives in Greece. Because now the authorities, here and across Europe, know not only that we would do it, but that we can.

It is instructive to examine the reactions of the authorities in some detail, because it is as well to know our enemies and to try to anticipate their moves. On the Friday night, not understanding what had happened, the police acted in totally predictable hysteria. Even the anticipated pause for thought before physically breaking down barricaded doors did not occur. They were wild. An echo of this could be seen at Marlborough Street Court the following morning; it was Greek Week all over again, every policeman touchy as hell, trying to provoke scenes by clearing the lobby, and then the pavement, of people who had come there for no more sinister purpose than to stand surety for their friends. Someone was smartly arrested for calling the coppers bastards; they were obviously sorely annoyed that they could not create even more trouble. The evening papers played it up. 'Scenes in Court, girls carried out.' All totally predictable. In fact the movement had already sensed the new mood and regarded scenes in Court—or even worse, outside Court as entirely irrelevant in the changed circumstances. The girl who was nicked unexpectedly pleaded guilty and meant her apology, although no doubt not quite in the sense the magistrate inferred. It is just that minor scuffles are no longer important.

Then, some time between this and the March of Shame, there was a very bigwig, very top level conference. They heard reports from coppers who had been mingling with the crowds outside the Court. They pondered the meaning of Friday night and the appalling fact that over 50 people — probably many more - could be involved in something so serious and yet they, the police, did not know! They pondered the fact that many of the people who were arrested had been seemingly inactive for years and yet were suddenly alive again. That many of those who came to Court to stand surety, and obviously totally supported what had happened, had last been known many years ago as staunch supporters of frank and open demonstrations in the spirit of pure Gandhian nonviolence. They pondered all this. And they sensed the mood.

Roy Jenkins is no Henry Brooke. Unfortunately, he is much more subtle, much more clever, and therefore much more dangerous. So the March of Shame (which they had been preparing to destroy) was accommodated because suddenly it was irrelevant and not worth trouble. Superintendent Butler was taken off the investigation into the Berkshire murder case — the two little girls, remember the shocked publicity and how important it all was?—taken off this case and put on us, to find out how and what happened, to nail organisers and find evidence, smoke out leaders, destroy and intimidate talent which they and we never even knew we possessed. And they

Continued on page 2



to be a choice between Europe not entitled to sell our friends and kinsmen down the river for some problematical advantage in selling washing machines in Dusseldorf.' It needs no genius to divine that it was Mr. Harold Wilson in August 1961 speaking against Britain's joining the Common Market.

There are times, when watching the vast panorama of human events unfolding, that one feels as if in an offguard moment one has a seat at a film one has seen before. We know it all and it all may be as corny as ever, but after all we've paid for our seat—and something quite different might happen—the projectionist might even take a hand!

Readers who like this sort of thing may care to read the articles on the EEC (as the thing was then called) in *People in the Street*, selections from Freedom, Vol XI, 1961 [price 10/6 cloth, 7/6 paper].

To the anonymous 'leader writer' of Freedom one is indebted for the Wilson quote; one is also indebted to V. Richards (for he it was) for a vigorous polemic with C.H. on this whole subject.

However, since 1961 things have changed somewhat. There is now virtually no disagreement between the political parties as to the advisability of making application to join the Common Market. There are individual members of parties some highly placed, who have objections to the Common Market but they will be overruled by the party vote—even the opposition is putting the party whips on to see that the Government is not impeded on its limp into Europe.

The chauvinistic Communists and the nostalgic Conservatives meet, by a dialectical process, in their opposition, the Morning Star and the Daily Express editorials are (once again) interchangeable on this topic.

principles. It would be easier to be complicated and retreat between a hedge of qualifying clauses and statistical probabilities, but the truth is that the whole position vis-a-vis the Common Market is too complex to evaluate and so one is thrust back upon the simplicity of anarchist principles.

Firstly, the Common Market is a purely capitalist device and a development of the tendency to monopoly widespread throughout industry, whether a state-monopoly or a finance-monopoly. One is aware that this is an inevitable historical process but nevertheless one regrets it and registers a resolve to do all one can to obstruct it.

Secondly, it is no step towards internationalism. True the capitalists are more internationally-minded than the proletariat but this forced amalgamation of slaves is no 'parliament of man or federation of the world' as Wordsworth dreamt of. There has been some lofty talk of 'no passports necessary' when we go into Europe but this is merely as and when required. It is hinted that Commonwealth immigrants will be even less welcome when Britain joins the Common Market.

It is fairly certain that the cost of living will go up when we enter the Market. It is also certain that the cost of living will increase if we don't, but the Common Market means that agricultural subsidies and Commonwealth preferences will cease and agriculturally we shall be even more dependent on imports. With the attendant rationalization, the small farmer, like the small industrialist, will be priced out of business.

Whether the Common Market will develop into a political union as well as an economic union is a

It grieves one to be simpliste on matter of time. As John Galbraith this issue and plump for opposing said in his Reith Lectures this year, and the Commonwealth, we were the Common Market on anarchist 'technology dictates political forms', and obviously the spread of computers and the decimal system will make for an ever-increasing centralization.

> The fears that Western Germany will get more powerful by her association with the Market is the type of anti-Market argument which will carry weight with some.

> Curiously enough, the Communists are not reconciled to the Common Market by the obvious knowledge that, whilst it destroys Britain's last links with the Commonwealth, it will destroy Britain's 'special relationship' with the US indeed, if that ever existed.

> The position of General De Gaulle in all this is, as usual, problematical. This is part of the script that does not read quite the same. De Gaulle is not so powerful as he once was.

There are other and more complex issues and arguments such as those connected with finance which are reasons for not going into the Market. There are arguments for going in, such as wider access to a device to ensure the free flow of markets and greater possibilities of labour from one country to another technical expansion which, whilst of commanding capitalist interest, are only of interest to us as residual legatees.

> No, it will not do! Harold Wilson may consider this our great leap forward but no one would consider that the unity of his enemies was a desirable thing. The growth of monopoly states as well as the growth of monopoly capitalism is undesirable from an anarchist point of view.

> Some of what may be happening may seem to be the 'right thing for the wrong reason' but hobbled as we are to the state and capitalism this spurious international unity is a great limp forward and we shall probably fall flat on our faces.

JACK ROBINSON.

THE MAY DAY March is traditionally an event where the various left factions put aside their differences and stroll through the centre of the town as a gesture—a small gesture—of solidarity. people. The Leeds Trades Council (a pinch of bours du travail in half a million gallons of water) decided that May Day was their day and that no one could

carry party banners or non-approved

slogans. On May Day!

No one took this very seriously and Anarchists, SLLIS and militant group comrades turned up with flags and banners. But the Trades Council was in But even this is too much for some dead earnest. They called the police in. At first the coppers said we would have to march behind the Council column with a gap between us and them, but two noisy and bloody-minded Communist Party members insisted that we shouldn't

march at all (the Communists have a well-organised caucus inside the Trades Council). So the police told us to disperse. We did and then tagged on to the end of the column.

One of the noisy Communists pointed to a comrade carrying the Red and Black and shouted to a policeman, 'Get him off the march. Arrest him. Get him off the march.

Further down the road the police jumped us and an assortment of comrades were arrested, nine in all. The Trades Council and the Communists then went to a park and spewed hypocritical speeches about the need for left unity. What lovely human beings they are. p.r.b.

# DON'T SHOP AT MEAKER'S!

A LL MAINTENANCE electricians employed by Meaker's Ltd., the Gents' Outfitters, have come out on strike. They are protesting against the victimisation of one of their members, Gery Lawless. Mr. Lawless was dismissed when he refused to co-operate with the management in the sacking of another worker.

Briefly, the background to the dispute

is as follows:

Meaker's electricians recently won a wage increase of 1/- an hour. Following this, the management instructed Mr. Lawless, the chief electrician, to reduce the labour force. Mr. Lawless refused and, as a result, was himself sacked. The reason given by the management was that he 'failed to agree with members of the staff'.

For some time Mr. Lawless had been in dispute with the management over safety regulations; he had been insisting that the rules and regulations of the Institute of Electrical Engineers be strictly applied. This created a situation in which the management were willing to seize the first excuse to sack him. They have done so now as a result of his standing by basic trade union principles.

The men involved in the dispute have organised pickets of certain Meaker's stores and have appealed to all sections of the labour movement to join them in picketing stores throughout London

and the Home Counties. For details ring 01-TER 1714.

22 Duncan Terrace, E. BOYHAN. London, N.1

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### VIETNAM

My original letter about Mr. Featherstone's article on Vietnam was understood to be a preliminary to a reply to the specific points. Adam Roberts now challenges me to make these points. Right. I work through the article in the order in which it is written. I do not at all regard it as 'farcical cold war propaganda' that the USA is plotting to destroy China-I base this on what I've seen going on in South and South East Asia as well as on sources such as Peace News (3.3.67), and countless others. China knows it perfectly well, and is planning her defence—and has been for vears. Nor is it 'farcical' to blame the US for perpetuating poverty, disease, etc., throughout the world—what can one say but to recommend a little thought and reading about the matter, starting with David Horowitz's From Yalta to Vietnam, Baran and Sweezy's Monopoly Capital, and Ronald Segal's Race War. The UN is as things are and have been a 'tool of US aggression'—as witness Korea, the Congo and elsewhere. And absolutely bloody certainly one American in three lives in poverty-see Michael Harrington's The Other America, and more recent material showing how things have worsened in recent years (e.g. Calvin Herton in the latest Peace News).

Vietminh 'terror' after the French ratted on their undertakings (made in the period while they were still trying to build up their forces in early 1946) was a matter of self-preservation against French tactics which pioneered later US genocide. The refugees who fled North Vietnam after the 1954 Geneva Conference is the stock in trade of reactionaries everywhere. The facts of the matter are that movement from the landhungry north to the land-surplus south was a centuries-long tradition in Vietnam which had been prevented by the French as a matter of administration and control in their colonial oppression; the 1954 settlement was the first chance for free movement of the peasantry in general for decades. It was also stimula-

# Lengis

ted by grotesque US propaganda. From what we observed in the North today, there is freedom of religious observation, which is more than can be said of the South! Moreover, those who moved soon had cause to regret their choice. A true parallel to what happened would be the movement from the eastern seaboard of the US to the western during the 'frontier' period-but with a Fascist dictatorship awaiting the unsuspecting emigrants on arrival in the new lands.

The mistakes made by the DRV during land reform are not denied by themquite the contrary. On learning the facts, great efforts were made to rectify the harm. To compare this with the unrestrained terror in the South is monstrous—using whosoever's figures. Of course armed resistance to Diem started up spontaneously-it was the only political option left-why quibble about a date that can have no meaning anyway? The formalisation of a universal situation of popular uprising is a fact that can be ascertained. That the NLF. once launched, relied upon terror for its support is patently absurd, given the nature of this type of war. Moreover, it runs plainly counter to the known facts. See Halberstam's Making of a Quagmire, p. 187 et passim on this, just to cite one US source, but more generally Eqbal Ahmad's brilliant article in the Vietnam Penguin, and a host of other analyses of people's war.

It is very clever to point out piddling factual errors in Russell's articles, and to ignore the most overwhelming fact of our time of which he has tried to warn us-the slide of the US government towards Fascism. Like accusing the Jews of exaggerating their concentration camp victims to contrive support against Hitler! No doubt some of the passionate journalists who tried to warn us about

Germans of the time could pounce on triumphantly to discredit the Jews and vindicate Hitler. Shame! I should hope that both Mr. Roberts and his colleague Mr. Featherstone are familiar with quite dispassionate academic estimates—based largely on US official sources-which amply vindicate the magnitudes of Russell's figures. See, for example, Appendix 4 of Herman and Du Boff's America's Vietnam Policy, Washington, 1966. The utter callousness of making a distinction between Russell's use of 'maimed' to describe the effects of US poison gases on the innocent people of Vietnam and his source's 'affected' is beyond my comprehension — and I'm afraid is an example of that disguised racism to which I have drawn attention elsewhere. The precise effects of all the gases used, and the implications of their employment, have been spelt out warningly by distinguished US scientists of all political complexions time and again, and one would have thought that some of their articles and statements would have come to the attention of Mr. Roberts and Mr. Featherstone. What exactly the scientists claim is that the US administration's descriptions of the effects of these weapons is quite at variance with scientific assessments, and indeed of observations of people on the spot. Moreover, in most cases the principal sufferers—to the point of death in many cases—are the very young and very old. (See, for example, Scientific World, January 1967; Science, Vol. 155, nos. 3759, 3760; and elsewhere.)

Nazism made slight factual errors in

their 'emotional' reports which pro-

Our investigating procedures in Vietnam; I recommend Messrs. Roberts and Featherstone to go and have a word with Martin Birnstingel, the Consulting Surgeon at St. Bartholomew's, who has just returned. If you are able to stick the label of apologist for communist tyranny on him I'll be very surprised. Our investigating procedures in general may not have been perfect, but my God' you can't go far without seeing evidences. Would Roberts and Featherstone go along with the journalist who interviewed me on my return and suggested that all the flattened cities and limbless

women and children had been 'laid on' cynically by the Vietnamese themselves to dupe Western liberals? Don't parade your callousness so blatantly. May the peoples of Asia forgive you and never visit on you and your families the horror that we Westerners have heaped upon them in our centuries-long search for

The Tribunal when it commences work will be able to simply discard every incident or every piece of material evidence which they consider the slightest bit marginal or doubtful, since there will remain such a catalogue of inhuman barbarity unparalleled in colonial history. The US have absolutely no right to be where they are (even strictly legalistically—see, e.g., the US Lawyers Committee on American Policy Towards Vietnam: American Policy vis-a-vis Vietnam). The Vietnamese have every right-including the right to fight in self-defence. It is incomprehensible that FREEDOM, an anarchist paper, should lean backwards to apologise for US fascism, rather than put all its support behind the great and unbeatable Asian revolution against ages-long poverty and humiliation — a revolution currently spear-pointed by the gallant Vietnamese people, whose struggle history will recall as the greatest human epic of all time.

MALCOLM CALDWELL.

## Somebody's Goofed

Dear Editors,

On behalf of the Manchester Anarchist Group, might I suggest that the next time you publish our obituary, you take the trouble of finding out first whether or not we are really dead.

DAVE POULSON (Sec.). 5.5.67

# Unaligned in Vietnam

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

#### GREEK DEMO

Continued from page 1 decided to lower the temperature.

So on Monday morning at the Court their exaggerated politeness. A good hundred people were standing around chattering, yet all that happened was: a Court official came out and asked usasked us, mind you!-to be quiet as the magistrate was being disturbed by conversation. Several times this happened. The noise was in fact deafening. Defendants in the case got bail (except Terry who is being framed on all manner of ridiculous charges) though, lest we be deceived too much by sudden leniency, notice the terms: £200 of one's own surety, £200 of someone else's, to be of good behaviour for three months. They are not being lenient. Just canny.

The press suddenly shut up like clams. After the Brighton Church incidents, for days there was a steady trickle of recognition—cartoon references, a few leaders, a few letters from irate citizens, a few articles by angry or accommodating and lying headlines the following day.

respect to press deadlines.) Then suddenly nothing. You know a reporter on a national daily? Ring him up with a juicy titbit of information. Will he pump you for more, try to find out what you I tried it.

After the Marham demonstrations we had 50 people up on charges under Section 1 of the Official Secrets Act (described in a different case as 'one of the most serious charges in English law'). Very newsworthy, one would think. But not a murmur escaped into the national press. Local papers splashed the news when even one local person was involved. But nationally, nothing. The same is happening now. So, as in Greece, the word must spread through talk and letters and our own small magazines which are never good enough but which are all we

system. The serious 'affray' charge, which could carry sentences of many ceeded with, can only be meant to intellectually prepared for it. (One of the demonstrators' most brilliant intimidate the jury into convicting on strokes was their sense of timing with the less serious charge under (wait for the movement more significant than the

that, as at Marham, they will drop or change the serious charge, and dish out the embarrassment of creating political prisoners here as well as in Greece. Perhaps they will try to demoralise us even further by sending down a few for conspiracy; but we have changed since Wethersfield. Evidence will be very hard to find.

But even if they do play it down, this will be for their own purposes. It will be to lull us and placate us and try to soothe the new mood out of existence. It will not be because they underestimate the new development. They know what is happening even clearer than we do ourselves. And unless everyone who is in any way involved with The present charges cannot stand the 'liberation left'-by definition this up in a court of law, even one so means every reader of Freedom except distorted and in pawn as the English our friends at Special Branch-understands exactly what is going on, we may find ourselves getting very badly hurt years for all involved, is a piece of non- without warning. This will be less churchmen. But this time? Confused sensical police hysteria which, if pro- demoralising if we are emotionally and

April 28, 1967, was a watershed for

it) the Race Relations Act. (Public Spies for Peace, Wethersfield or Marham. Order Act, amended 1966.) It is likely Non-violent direct action was creatively, audaciously, brilliantly used by a large group of people who have suddenly very stiff fines and bindings over. This begun to take themselves seriously as a the police were almost embarrassing in know? Not bloody likely. Not now. will cripple the movement (?) without revolutionary force. But amid our exhilaration and astonishment we must recognise and prepare to face the consequences. 'In Greece, we would shoot you!' Here, not yet. But that is only because our own authorities are more clever, more experienced and more subtle. It is not because they are any less deadly.

Money is urgently needed for the 42 people charged. Please send postal orders or cheques to 'Save Greece Now Defence Fund a/c', 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4, or by credit transfer from any bank to that account at Midland Bank Ltd., 138 Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1.

'114'

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# 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).

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Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middle-EALING ANARCHIST GROUP. Get into touch with Ken King, 54 Norwood Road,

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim

#### OFF-CENTRE LONDON DISCUSSION MEETINGS

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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.

BELFAST: Contact Tony Adams, 11 Winetavern Street, Smithfield Square, Belfast. 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.

RESISTANCE GROUP. C/o Birmingham Peace Action Centre (formerly CND office), Factory Road, Birmingham, 19. UNIVERSITY OF ASTON GROUP. Contact:

Dave Kipling, 87 Kingsbury Road, Erdington, 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 Csowley, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff. DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Uga Turnbull, 39 Stratheden Park, Stratheden Hospital, by Cupar, Fife. GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head

HERTS, GROUP. Contact Stuart Mitchel at 46 Hughendon Road, Marshalswick, St. Albans, HULL ANARCHIST GROUP. J. Tempest, 89 Fountain Road, Hull. Tel. 212526. Meetings 8 p.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays of month at above address.

Lane, Glasgow, C.1.

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.

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

Students' Union, University, Sheffield. Tel. 24076. SOUTH WEST MIDDLESEX ANARCHIST GROUP. Meetings every Saturday, Feltham High Street. Contact P. J. Goody, 36 Norman Avenue, Hanworth, Middlesex. 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, CHORLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary:

Anne Marie Fearon, 16 Devonshire Road,

Chorley. 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.

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. SHEFFIELD. Contact Robin Lovell, c/o ROCHDALE. Please contact Richard Crawford. 4 Hargreaves Street, Sudden, Rochdale. SLOUGH. Contact Sid Rawle, 4 Hillperton Road, Slough, Bucks. 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.

# Left Out in the Cold

CTRANGE SCENES, strange scenes at Caxton Hall last week on occasion of NEW New (?) Left May Day Manifesto launching.

What happened? Well, from 9 o'clock onwards no one was allowed in-apart that is from one SB man, eager to hear about the 'corporate state' and all those other horrors towards which there is no truth whatever in the hints of rumours that the Wilson Government may just be moving: of course.

From that time until the meeting ended, a squad of double-stubborn fuzz stationed itself on all the doors, excluding all possible subversives who may have come from the Greek or Spanish Embassies that evening (from demonstrations). Needless to say, they were aided by a Black Maria and the hall manager, one 'Mr. Bennett', eager to please the fuzzy blue Inspector from whom his orders seemed to emanate.

Upshot? Mrs. Peggy Duff (who the hell is she?), one of the signatories of the manifesto itself, was refused entry. 'We know you,' the sergeant told her, 'you're one of those anarchists!'

Mrs. Duff, not pleased-still less flattered-by this statement, replied: 'You must let me in! Don't you know, I'm a councillor of a neighbouring borough? I'll call my MP!'—All to no avail.

orders, immovable as an oak tree, of good English stock, with boots to prove

Finally, in desperation the Duff woman was heard to say: 'Why don't you lads yell-"Stuff Duff!"-then they'll believe me.' She was last seen stalking off to the pub.

In all, about 100-people were excluded from the meeting. The official excuse appeared to be that the hall was 'overcrowded'. But the organisers of the meeting offered to arrange for 30 of the audience to come out 'so our comrades outside can come in', and the police would still not wear it. They had their orders and they were sticking to them. No one else was to be allowed in. And the sinister thing is that they came of their own accord—without being asked they, in effect, took over the building. That much, to those who saw it, was without doubt.

At one point it looked as though Stuart Hall would start up a separate meeting in the foyer. But New Left rebelliousness was no match for police adamance.

Corporate state? Raymond Williams, Edward Thomson, Stuart Hall, on that very night you had it on your own bloody doorstep! And from you not a squeak.

# J.M. The sergeant stood firm—obeying WHAT UPSET THE CRITICS?

THREE COLUMNS of abuse in the Daily Telegraph; nervous inanities in the Spectator; distortion and vulgarisation in the Evening Standard; all this and the gerontological idiocy in the Guardian-you must admit that I had proper grounds for suspicion. Then as I switched on the radio I heard a cultured English voice complaining about the cultural blanc-mange and those who are waving or drowning in it hit down with a stick on the Continent or given a lollipop to hold in this country. This was the voice of Peter Watkins quietly and confidently defending his work.

is a departure for him—all his other films are based on fact, this on conjecture—I cannot but say that my suspicions were justified: the critics were lying and here was a good film that they were ordered to kill. In this they are now abetted by the Rank distributors who are refusing to give the film a circuit book-

Nevertheless Watkins's best film is not the War Game or even the excellent Culloden but a short piece (an exercise for TV) on French police interrogating (euphemism) an Algerian prisoner. This has not been shown to the general public, a pity when there is time for such an inanity as accompanied Privilege in the West End.

What has upset these 'critics' and distributors? I am positive that their excuse that Privilege was unfair to the clergy is nonsense. The clergy in the theatre or cinema is a stock joke (John Osborne's musical comes to mind)—the long-skirted men ought to be flattered that they still can get in on the act. The businessmen

and the pop-singer's entourage are accurately depicted and without malice; had they been publicly identified they would have been gratified. Were the critics worried about the manipulation of youth aspect? Or the Billy Graham/Adolphus Hitler/Cliff Richard monster rallyaren't they hardened to all that. (Even Mr. Wilson and Mr. Brown had their faithful at Wembley Pool during the last elections - remember the scriptwriter?) Did the sober commentary upset our critics? Surely not. Was it the love scene, those sensuous fingers of Twiggy or was it the Shrimp or the Although the subject of his new film weals on Paul Jones's back?—the censor passed it all.

No. It is clear what upset our guardians and their paid hacks. They were the opening scenes when the singer is locked in a metal cage, around him strut the English Bobbies. For the first time their sadism in an English film is not even highlighted. Police brutality is taken for granted.

The critics also lied about the acting: it is superb. The direction is effortless, masterly. The camera-work also; the photography is gentle on the eye; the film has humour, perception, argument, prophecy, pace, action. What else do they want from a film?

Privilege does not however allow for the possibility of opposition against the forces of conformity. The manipulation of youth is somewhat too simple and the 'confessed anarchist' is a sold-out

Our argument with Peter Watkins starts where we left it off with George Orwell.

JOHN RETY.

# LIBERTARIAN CAMP

THE INTERNATIONAL Camp of with shallow water where small children Libertarian Youth (camping) will be may bathe. open this year from July 3 to September 1, and is situated on the banks of Lake Como, in the region known as: 'Boschetto Rosselli (Piano di Spagna), Comune di Sorico (Como)'.

The camp site occupies an area of around 15,000 sq. metres (which can be increased if the necessity arises) and is of a sandy soil, which will avoid the formation of puddles if it rains. On the edge of the Lake there is a sandy beach

# 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

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£3 17s. (\$10.50) (per year)

ANARCHY (seamail)

It may be possible to set aside some of the site for the children to play on and, possibly, some for football and other games.

The site is suitable for those who are addicted to fishing (on the Lake, and on the River Mera and its tributaries, which are full of trout), game-hunting (the reedcovered parts of the lakeside offer all types of hunting), skiing (the Groppera Mountain, 3,200 m. high, can be used for skiing all the year round), excursions, climbing (less than 40 km. away, the Bernina group and the Disgravzia group offer scope for 6th grade climbs) and the surrounding countryside is rich in mushrooms.

From Milan, catch the train to Colico (20 make the journey every day) on the Milano-Lecco-Sondrio line, and the Pullman service to Sorico leaves at the time of arrival of the Colico train. Two or two and a half hours after leaving Milan, you will reach the camp site.

The daily cost will be 200 lire per person, but this may have to be modified slightly during the duration of the Camp. THE CAMPING COMMITTEE.

c/o Circolo Sacco-Vanzetti, Viale Murillo N.1, Milano, Italy.

# 'Anarchists in Street Battle with Police'

THE GREEK AMBASSADOR survived a raid on his Embassy but failed to please his new Government. The Law survived the National Council for Civil Liberties AGM and Alexander Palace rave. The Monarchy survived the March of Shame and the Trafalgar Square impersonations. The Press survived May Day in Fleet Street and Capitalism and the State survived May Day in London, Moscow and Peking. In Madrid and Amsterdam the Law intervened in their usual manner on May Day. . . .

It is thought that the police power to arrest demonstrators within a mile of Parliament while it is sitting may have been curbed by a recent court decision in the case of Andrew Papworth. . .

LABOUR MP Mrs. Margaret McKay has sent to Mr. Roy Jenkins, Home Secretary, a badge inscribed 'Kill a Commie for Christ'. She says, 'The badge is not only blasphemous but a disgraceful incitement to violence and crime.' Commenting on a speech to the American Congress by General Westmoreland, asking for full support for the war in Vietnam, Mr. Mendel Rivers, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said, 'His speech separates the men from the boys. The immortal words of Stephen Decatur "my country, right or wrong", could never be truer. It's too late to question whether it's right or wrong.' . . .

SENATOR CHARLES PERCY, a possible Presidential candidate, said, earlier in the week, that all those who seek or expect 'total victory' in Vietnam must answer whether they were prepared to allow victory which cannot, in my judgement, someone who ain't ever called us "nigger"? No, never! Mr. Mohammed Ali, formerly Cassius Clay, declined to take an oath for the American Army. The American World Boxing Association Controversy was also aroused by

stripped him of his title. It is not known on what grounds since his US Government-sponsored proposed fight in Vietnam is not being fought in a ring, with gloves, for any purse or under rules, Queensberry or otherwise. . . .

THE REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, preaching in his church at Atlanta, Georgia, urged young men to register as conscientious objectors and refuse to fight for the United States, which he described as 'the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today'. He said that those who once praised him for his non-violent tactics against segregationists now denounced him 'when I preach non-violence against little brown Vietnamese women and children'. . . .

WRITING TO THE New York Times International Edition, Mr. Peter Geismar of the Humanities Department of the Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey, points out that the New York Times' editorial, referring to Capt. Dale 1966, which demands that the troops themselves should assess the true nature of the warfare in which they are involved and disobey any order which he thinks is illegal. This code was introduced because of the Algerian controversy. . . .

CONTROVERSY WAS CAUSED by the National Theatre board vetoing the production of The Soldiers, by Rolf Hochhuth, on the apparent grounds that the play was critical of Winston Chur-American casualties for an interminable chill and implies that he was involved number of years 'in search of a total in a plot to kill General Sikorski. The text of the play has not been released really be achieved'. Mr. Stokeley Car- but it is known that it contains criticism michael, of the Black Panther Move- of Churchill's bombing policy, for exment, said at a Vietnam peace march in ample the bombing of Dresden, and New York, 'Go 8,000 miles to fight criticises Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris who carried the policy into effect and Lord Cherwell who advised on the policy of bombing civilians. . . .

publication in The Times of the wellknown revelations by Anthony Nutting (Minister of State for Foreign Affairs at the time) that the invasion of Suez in 1956 by the British, French and Israelis was as a result of collusion in order to overthrow Nasser and seize the canal. This, Nutting claims, was largely because of Sir Anthony Eden's spleen. . . .

-S. London Mercury

THE MORNING STAR (28.4.67) describes 'a communist declaration in defence of free discussion and democracy and against dogmatism'. In the same issue it recounts that the London district committee of the Communist Party has decided to expel four members-Mr. Reg Birch, Mr. Tom Hill, Mr. Jim Kean, and Mr. Sam Nelson. The decision to expel them was taken because they have broken the rules of the Party by publicly circulating material which attacks the Party.' Mr. Reg Birch later said that his E. Noyd's decision not to go to Vietnam expulsion was timed to embarrass him and stating, 'No member of the armed in his candidature for the presidency of forces may pick and choose among the the AEU. He said he had been expelled orders he will obey', makes no reference because he would not accept 'handedto the French military code of October, down decisions' or intrusion into the affairs of a union. The Chinese representatives left the reviewing stand at the May Day military parade in Moscow when the Soviet Minister of Defence accused Peking of frustrating efforts to defeat the US forces in Vietnam. . . .

> THE NEW YORK TIMES International Edition, writing of Chancellor Kiesinger's concept of American policy in which he confessed he was 'unclear', says, 'The Chancellor seems to have no trouble talking with General de Gaulle. But his first meeting with President Johnson on Monday apparently left him as nuclear as ever in his own mind about the "American concept" of the world's

> > JON QUIXOTE.

## His Fourth Summer

THE MAY DAY meeting at Speakers' Corner and the demonstration at the Spanish Embassy, organised by the London Federation of Anarchists and the Syndicalist Workers' Federation, was supported by only a handful of comrades and sympathisers. This was disappointing, but those there, nevertheless, registered their protest against the imprisonment of political prisoners.

While not expecting the Spanish authorities to release anyone because of our little demonstration, news does however reach those in jail. It does give them some encouragement and heart and this is why it is important to support these demonstrations.

Leaving aside the nameless thousands still behind bars, Stuart Christie faces his fourth summer in the Carabanchel Prison. Other and more recent victims are Antonio Canete, Luis Edo, Alfredo Herrera, Alicia Mur and Jesus Rodriguez. These comrades need our support and our solidarity should be shown. Many might still face long terms of imprisonment and it is up to all of us to make it known that they have not been forgotten.

P. TURNER.

£420

Bertrand Russell's autobiography published by Allen & Unwin, 42/-.

> 'I have wished to know why the stars shone.'

-Bertrand Russell.

ALL AUTOBIOGRAPHIES are selfjustificatory: no one has written the story of his life in order to prove he was a failure. Autobiographies written by great men are naturally written to magnify their grandeur, and by leaving posterity a record of their lives, to immortalize themselves. This may be one reason why these books tend to be so disappointing-and so similar. One need all the great men of today will be seen to be dull mediocrities by succeeding ing new editions of their own!

might be called the apocryphal autobiographies, in which, after a few carefully selected 'feed' lines, the author brings down the curtain with devastating and unanswerable repartee. (If a general is writing, the same effect is obtained, except, of course, that bombs and tanks take the place of conversation.)

Inevitably, perhaps, we all tend to distort or select the truth as soon as we if it were possible for us to be taken and Three in One. back, in time and place, to some particular event in our childhood that had been filmed by an unseen camera, we should utterly fail to recognise the action on the screen as having even the remotest connection with ourselves or-the truth!

'Throughout the greater part of my childhood, the most important hours of my day were those that I spent alone in the garden, and the most vivid part of my existence was solitary. . . . Nature and books and (later) mathematics saved me from complete despondency.'

Many people (myself among them) regard Bertrand Russell, the politician, with distinctly mixed feelings-affection certainly, but more recently, impatience and even incomprehension. This book disarmed me. True, the 'witty anecdotes' are there; and he has not altogether avoided some of the traps mentioned earlier. But he freely admits to the benefits bestowed on him by ancestral privilege that might have stifled a weaker man-with or without a private income of £20,000 at the age of 21.

He wrote and received an enormous number of letters-most of which appear to have been preserved and recordedlumped together somewhat awkwardly at the end of each chapter.

Perhaps the most impressive are those written to a certain Lucy Donnelly: but all the letters are readable, and the temptation to skip should be avoided, or the reader may well miss, for example, an incident (on page 105) like that of the Grunting English Ambassador. . . .

Although fortunate enough to have missed the horrors of a public school, the prophet seems to have suffered his share of the Victorian pangs of puberty: 'The facts of sex first became known to me when I was twelve years old, through a boy named Ernest Logan. . . . ' A not be a prophet to foresee that almost housemaid was induced to meet him in an 'underground house' that he had spent the winter making, where he kissed and generations-who will be busy produc- hugged her: 'Once I asked her whether she would like to spend a night with me, Particularly to be distrusted are what and she said she would die rather, which I believed. She also expressed surprise, saying that she thought I was good. Consequently, this affair proceeded no further. . . .

Much has been made by a certain Sunday critic, better known as television's top clown and amateur actor (and recently top convert) of the 'puzzle' of the two Russells. One wonders why. God himself is popularly believed to be, if begin to reminisce about ourselves; and memory serves, a Trinity-One in Three

It was also deplored by this same critic that 'the intellectuals' (he means Russell) should 'air their views to millions'. Well, well.

Despite all the wit and irony in the writing, there is genuine humility, and generous recognition of talent, often inferior to his own.

His comments on the Webbs, for example, are caustic yet fair, and perhaps foreshadow the political thinking that was to terminate so brilliantly, just before the outbreak of the Great War, in Roads to Freedom (Simplists please note).

I have purposely avoided giving a résumé of the contents of the book, because people will, I hope, read it for themselves; I need hardly urge readers of FREEDOM to ignore the publisher's blurb and the meaningless comparison with Rousseau.

'. . after all, people can tell one nothing more interesting than their own feeling towards life.' (From a letter to Previously Acknowledged: £424 6 7 Lucy Donnelly.)

It is what Russell has succeeded in

DAVID MARKHAM.

# Thanks again!

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# BOBESFORSALE

THE CONSORTIUM at Fairfields shipyard was established in June 1966. Apart from saving the closure, the idea of the consortium of Government, private enterprise and trade unions was to prove that workers and branches of the Establishment could work together, or to put it another way, 'every man has his price'.

The basic premise of the exercise was that in exchange for employment the workers would sell their rule books, no strikes or go-slows, everything would be settled by negotiation no matter how long they took. From the employers' point of view, this arrangement is ideal; whilst prolonged chats are going on, production is continuing and it is not costing them any extra money. By including the unions in the consortium it was hoped that the wor-

## Contact Column

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

Unfurnished Accommodation Wanted. Responsible gentleman, thirties, 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.

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

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

Accommodation Available - London. Medium sized room in unfurnished s/c flat Camden Town, about £3 p.w. Whole flat (2 large/2 medium 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.

Work Wanted. Fairly intelligent and responsible anarchist (18) needs congenial job. Anywhere, anything considered. Box 55.

Needed. Literary (philosophical or practical) and financial contributions for 'STONEBREAKER'S YARD'. Journal of the Anarchist Movement in Northeastern Minnesota. James W. Cain, editor, Stonebreaker's Yard, P.O. Box 26, Duluth, Minnesota, USA.

Chorley Meeting. To discuss proposed Vietnam demonstration. May 24, p.m., at 16 Devonshire Road, Chorley.

Accommodation Wanted-London. Two secretaries. Peace-loving, thoughtful, require bright flatlet; good cooking facilities essential. No petty restrictions. Wanted end of May. With easy access to town. Approx. £5 to £5 5s. p.w. Box 56.

'Resistance': for Peace Action. Published by West Midland Committee of 100. 1/- plus postage. Subscription 6/for six issues. From Birmingham Peace Action Centre (formerly CND office), Factory Road, Birmingham,

Anyone interested in reconstituting a group of people, 'The Diggers', who could be called the first practising English Anarchists, please contact P.D., c/o Lewisham Anarchist Group address.

Accommodation Wanted. Camden Town or Kentish Town area. Young couple, expecting first baby, urgently need 2-roomed flat. C/o J. Thurston. 103a Camden Road, London, N.W.1.

International Camp. Lake Como, Italy. Travelling companions or would contribute car expenses. Early August. Alan Albon, The Stable, Glynleigh Farm, Pevensey, Sussex.

Floor space/Accommodation — London. Wanted July 15-30, for participant in Dialectics of Liberation Congress. Write Gordon Causer, Childs Hall, Upper Redlands Road, Reading.

Herber, Krimerman, Roseman etc. \$12. Registration to

by May 15.

kers would feel that they had a stake in the company and therefore would behave themselves. Of the union leadership this could possibly be true, but the rank and file have to pay bills against the flow of the rising cost of existing, so, therefore, they are forced back on the only real weapon they have—the withdrawal of their labour power.

This is precisely the situation at the present time at Fairfields. Progress has been made in terms of mobility of labour, but any increase in pay for the semi and unskilled workers has been non-existent. A 6d. an hour claim was negotiated last month and submitted to the Ministry of Labour. They would agree to the claim only on the basis of a run-down in the labour force, but being magnanimous, they agreed to 3d. an hour being paid until the run-down was complete. In fact this means that the workers pay twice for an ultimate paltry sum of 6d. an hour increase some time in the future. They have agreed and operated increased flexibility, now they are expected to sack some of their workmates. That's not bloodletting, it's genocide. According to the NUGMW's shop steward convener, a run-down in the labour force has never been agreed to,

merely a status quo which would automatically have reduced the ratio of semi-skilled and unskilled workers in favour of skilled men whose numbers were rising.

On receiving this preposterous proposal from their management, the 538 men involved struck work for the rest of the day and only returned so that negotiations could be re-opened. No progress was made; therefore the workers had no alternative but to withdraw their labour, despite the plea of the NUGMW's officials to return to work. Twenty-five AEU maintenance engineers also struck work over delay of productivity payments.

The situation to date is that both groups of workers have returned to work, on the basis of dumping the problem in the Ministry of Labour's lap. It is reported that Fairfields management are now prepared to pay the full increase in return for greater interchangeability and utilisation of the labour force.

Workers' bodies are worth very little and this is in fact what they are selling under the policy of 'rationalisation'—2d. an hour extra in exchange for six men's jobs. This is the new Wilson gimmick, if we swallow it we deserve all we get.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

# THE PADDINGTON STRIKE

FOR MANY YEARS Paddington Station and the Western Region of British Railways have been unaffected by any industrial disputes. Before the railways were nationalised, this region, then the Great Western, was considered to be a model of good labour relations rooms, k. & b.) on three year lease and it was said that railwaymen took a pride in working for it. All this is probably true, the management of the Great Western took a paternal interest in their employees and the pay and conditions were, on the whole, better than those of the other railway companies.

> A lot has changed since the Labour Government nationalised the industry. The railways have since been axed, thousands sacked, on what is termed natural wastage, and what was once considered a secure, fairly well-paid job, is now, on the whole, a low-paid and insecure one.

> It is important, I think, to remember this background, for last week Paddington Station had its first unofficial dispute for many years. It started over the decision of the station management to eliminate one of the two 'signing on' and 'signing off' points which are manned by disabled railwaymen. This meant extra work for them on the point that was retained and the elimination of jobs on the other. It involved the loss of jobs for the disabled men who man these points.

When the single point came into operation on May 1, parcel sorters were quick to make their protest by deciding to come out on strike. They were soon followed by porters, shunters, ticket collectors and Paddington-based guards. The strike soon affected train services, about a third of these being cancelled. Other trains were late and in some cases passengers were advised to change to the Underground for the last part of

their journeys. ACCEPTED SINGLE POINT

On Thursday the strikers accepted the single check point, but they were not prepared to go along with the single manning of this. When the management suggested that this arrangement would be reviewed after three months, it was 'howled down' by the men. Strikers instructed their area organiser, Charles Thurrock, to go to the executive of the National Union of Railwaymen and get the strike made official. However, on Friday evening, when goods yard men from Kensington and Wood Lane started coming out in sympathy, the only advice that Mr. Green, General Secretary of the Union, could give, was to go back to work.

Strikers at Paddington did, in fact, USA - Seminar. Practical Paths to agree to do just this at a mass meeting Peace'. Heathcote Centre, Rte. 1, on Saturday, but this was only after a Freeland, Maryland, USA. May lot of comings and going by Mr. Thurnock with different proposals from the management. The final solution, which Heathcote School of Living Centre was accepted by the men, was that the one check point should be double-I, you wish to make contact let us know. manned for each shift, employing six

men in all, for a two-week period, followed by a one-week period with only one man per shift. After this an inquiry would be made into the two systems, followed by negotiations on the findings.

At first the proposal was unacceptable to most of the men, but the union official did a major job of persuasion. Other speakers supported the return-to-work formula, some warmly, others less so, but in the final vote only a small minority voted to stay out.

The strikers have won concessions; in fact the union official had to go above Mr. Pattison, the London Divisional Manager, to get this, but nevertheless the strikers gave in early on the question of the two check points. The Daily Telegraph said they were 'striking over nothing', but there was an important issue at stake. However, the men involved were not really brought into the negotiations. It seems that the union agreed on the introduction of the one check point way back in March, but any attempts by the men's elected representatives to discuss the decision with the management had been turned down.

Throughout, the management has been very high-handed about the whole of the affair, and some of their remarks illustrate this attitude. Mr. Coxen, the Stationmaster, refused to allow the strikers to enter the station, and he said, 'Their only purpose in meeting at the station yesterday was to intimidate other workers.' The management issued a notice to passengers in which it called the strike 'irresponsible' and Mr. Pattison told reporters that they would not give in.

DISCIPLINE AND REGULATIONS

This tougher attitude of the management has come about over several years and was commented on by several of the speakers at Saturday's meeting. One said that they had had five general managers in seven years and that because the management was trained at college now, it lacked the background experience. This attitude is, of course, part of the all-over rationalisation that is being effected throughout the industry. Management wants to cut their deficit and are trying to toughten up on discipline and regulations in a petty manner to achieve this. The Great Western paternal attitude has no place in the managerial-state-controlled industry. I am not supporting the Great Western, but at least it was not the impersonal giant that is in control now. This toughening up lot of coming and going by Mr. Thurhas also had an effect on the treatment of the passengers, even a regular one I spoke to had noticed the change over the last several years.

Although no sackings were involved, as some men were retiring, it will mean a cut in the number of jobs available for disabled men. The final outcome remains to be seen, but this week's dispute has shown that solidarity among railwaymen is a real and effective thing.

# For Workers' Control

MAY 13 1967 Vol 28 No 14

# FIRST OF MARY

DRINTWORKERS, supported by fraternal delegates from the building and engineering industries, staged their first token stop work and march on May 1, in London. They marched, headed by the banner of the Association of Rank and File Printworkers from the headquarters of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (SOGAT) in Blackfriars, over the bridge, along the Embankment and then down Fleet Street to a meeting at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Road.

against the actions of the Labour Government.

In Fleet Street itself others joined the marching column as it turned into Ludgate Circus, to the Memorial Hall.

In the Memorial Hall, the meeting was chaired by John Lawrence, the secretary of the Association of Rank and File Printworkers. The fraternal delegates spoke first, one from the engineers, then one from the building trade workers. Then two printworkers, who have been active in the 'chapels' spoke. The



certain political elements did their best to dissuade their supporters in the printing industry from taking part. One did not expect the Labour Party elements to give the march its support since the demonstration was aimed at the Labour Government's economic policies, but the Communist Party which poses as the positive alternative to the Labour Party had their own good reasons for playing down the demonstration. But these obstacles plus the difficulties placed upon rank and file movements in getting publicity—the national press completely ignored and 'spiked' advance publicitymeant that the call to action had to be done by leaflets and by word of mouth.

However, some 250 assembled and, with a variety of posters with slogans painted on them, bravely began their march 'over the bridge'. Quickly, the marching column broke into ribald songs aimed at the perfidious Labour Government, the Prime Minister Harold Wilson and his minions such as Stewart and Gunter. At intervals, slogans rang out demanding the riddance of these mobsters and leaflets were distributed to other workers, who stopped work on building sites and other places to watch the march go through, explaining the purpose of the march and the need for the unity of all workers in their struggle

Men were quick in showing their sympathy and, if the strike had continued, goods trains would have stopped and the whole of Paddington would have been at a standstill if the signalmen had carried out their threat to support their fellow workers.

The solidarity shown has been a positive thing gained during this struggle and many railwaymen spoke of this at the meeting on Saturday. Make no mistake, this strike was spreading fast and the compromised return-to-work formulae prevented it. No doubt Mr. Green is breathing a sigh of relief and the management must realise now that they have a force to reckon with. The impression I gathered at the meeting was that this is only the start of industrial action by the railwaymen.

P.T.

Not only was the march unofficial but common theme was the need for the unity of the working class in its struggle against the economic policies of the Labour Government, its wage freeze policies, its high expenditure on arms, its hypocrisy when talking about the lower-paid workers, its defence of capitalism. Straight from the shoulder, the speakers left no doubt in the minds of those listening as to what action they felt it was necessary to take in the future.

A resolution calling for support for a one-day stoppage of work on July 3 was carried unanimously. The date was agreed upon because the Government has announced its intention to strengthen Part II of the Prices and Incomes Act before the period of severe wage restraint ends at the mid-year. The new powers are aimed to delay selected wage increases for up to seven months while they are examined by the Prices and Incomes Board. A good collection was taken to cover the immediate costs of the march and meeting.

Such was the enthusiasm at the meeting that when it closed they spontaneously decided to march back up Fleet Street to ITV headquarters in Kingsway. They sent in a deputation to the news editor and got a TV cameraman sent out.

From May 1, which the printers at least celebrated in a genuine international working-class manner, the next stage of their campaign has started to rope in even wider sections of printworkers and other sections of workers who are prepared to act with them. They will concentrate their activities on the 'factory floor' for it is clearly understood that if a serious struggle is to be mounted, it can only be done under the inspiration of rank and file organisation.

All those who wish to be kept in touch with the second round of the campaign both within the industry and on a wider industrial basis should write to: Association of Rank and File Printworkers, 29 Love Walk, S.E.5.

PRINTWORKER.

Please help despatch Freedom & Anarchy

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