

# Freedom

## Anarchist Weekly 6d

JULY 15 1967 Vol 28 No 21

### SAFEGUARDING OIL

BRITISH SOLDIERS have moved in and re-occupied the Crater area in Aden. This was done during the night and the first thing the people knew about it was when they heard the Argyll pipers sounding reveille.

For Major-General Philip Tower, GOC British Land Forces, his officers and men, it was a military success. They killed two Arabs without sustaining any casualties of their own. One officer is reported as saying: 'We had expected much stiffer opposition'. The GOC, when interviewed on TV seemed rather disappointed that it had been so easy, but consoled himself by saying that if terrorists showed themselves they would be killed.

Of course the army wanted to re-take the Crater before this, but were prevented by the civilian administration. However, as with other colonial struggles, a military solution will not really settle anything. Now the armed police, whose original mutiny and killing of 12 soldiers had forced British troops to withdraw, have now agreed to 'run this place together'.

During the British withdrawal from the Crater area, the two nationalist groups, FLOSY and NLF, continued their bitter struggle one against the other. The Mayor of Aden, a FLOSY member, was kidnapped by the NLF and rival groupings carried out executions.

The British Government is trying to build a stable South Arabian administration with a well-equipped armed force. This build-up of the Federal armed forces and police could lead to an

extensive armed conflict. Whether this will happen depends on a number of factors. Will it be possible to apply the United Nations General Assembly's resolutions urging the forming of a 'central caretaker government' to prepare for independence? Will the leaders of FLOSY and NLF be approached?

Approaches have been made this week by Mr. Bayoomi, nominated this week to be the first Prime Minister of the Federation, to what he called 'all political leaders in the area', but this does not necessarily mean the leaders of FLOSY and NLF. The Federal army and the police will not necessarily ensure a stable government, for many of its junior officers are sympathetic or nationalist supporters.

Both Tory and Labour Governments are responsible for this potentially explosive situation. They have tried to offset the growing and prevailing nationalist aspirations of the Arab peoples. The imposed Federal government has given power to the reactionary sheikhs. This can only help King Faisal of neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

British oil interests in Saudi Arabia have to be safeguarded and so it is possible that the King partly calls the tune in the South Arabian Federation. No doubt the policy of placating him and propping up a friendly government in respect of this country's oil interests will be abandoned when it is seen that it will not work. But by then, even more blood will have been spilt in the struggle for power in Aden.

P.T.

### So You Want To Be A Soldier?



'What did You Learn in School Today?'

HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL, the first real testing-ground for comprehensive education, believes in turning out pupils well attuned to their duties in the society into which they will emerge. As part of the preparations for the 'Holland Park School Fête' this year an invitation was sent to the British Army suggesting that they might like a stall or two at the fête to try to win over more recruits for the Army cadets. The response was enthusiastic, the Army showing itself to be only too anxious for a chance of 'robbing the cradle' to boost its future reserve figures.

And so, while the Royal Signals Corps set up a large and impressive display in the North Yard, another group ensconced itself complete with camouflaged tent, jeep and lorry, on the lawn near the pet's corner. Here was set up a quaint tabletop model of a battlefield of somewhat obscure location as well as some radio equipment. But the star attraction was the long narrow stall on which was spread quite a sizeable array of weapons.

While each wide-eyed youngster was given free-range, a benevolent soldierman was always on hand to explain the workings of each 'toy' and the extent of its destructive capacity.

And what is the response of the pupils themselves to this sort of conditioning in their education? The only rather doubtful sign of any rebellious activity was the large 'LONG LIVE MARKSIZM' paint-sprayed across a courtyard which in itself does not bear very good testimony of the teaching ability available.

**'IF POT CAUSED CANCER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LEGALISE IT TOMORROW'**

**20 ANARCHY SELLERS WANTED FOR 'ANARCHY'. 60 WHICH CONTAINS AN ARTICLE BY 'A PHYSICIAN' ON NARCOTIC ADDICTION AND THE BRAIN COMMITTEE REPORT.**

THE APPEAL in the Brighton church demonstration case was dismissed by the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court on Friday, July 7, and as a result Jim Radford and Nicolas Walter will begin their sentences of two months' imprisonment on Monday, July 17.

Readers of FREEDOM will remember that the Brighton church demonstration consisted of a series of interruptions of the special service for the Labour Party Annual Conference at the Dorset Gardens Methodist Church in Brighton on October 2, 1966. Nine of the 30 or 40 demonstrators were arrested and charged with riotous behaviour inside the church and with various other offences outside in the street. They were remanded in custody for a week, and when they were freed after application to a Judge in Chambers one of them sensibly went home to America. The other eight were remanded on bail for three more weeks to give the police a chance to cook up a conspiracy charge. This failed, but at the last moment they brought a new charge, that the demonstrators had been 'concerned' together in 'riotous, violent or indecent behaviour' in the church. This was shown to be technically inadmissible, so they changed it to just indecent behaviour.

The trial before the Brighton magistrates took eight days between October 31 and November 25, and in the end the charge of indecent behaviour was the only one found proved; all the charges made at the time of the demonstration were dismissed. Four of the demonstrators had been defended by Ben Birnberg, the London solicitor who does a lot of civil liberties work, and four of them defended themselves. Two of those who defended themselves had been marked men from the very beginning of the case and were given the maximum prison sentence of two months; the other six demonstrators were given the maximum fine of £5. (For previous reports of the case, see FREEDOM for October 8 and 15, November 26, and December 10, 1966.)

It was thought pointless to appeal against conviction or sentence to the notoriously reactionary Brighton Sessions, which are presided over by a Tory MP who hates kids and blacks and likes hanging and flogging, so instead all eight demonstrators appealed against conviction to the High Court on a single point of law—whether their behaviour was indecent. There is a very long delay in such appeals, so the Brighton magistrates gave Jim Radford and Nicolas Walter bail until ten days after the hearing.

It was three months before the magistrates' case was agreed by the two sides, and another four months before the case was heard. In the end, 'Abrahams, Anderson, Miles, Radford, Russell, Russell, Walter

# Indecency in Court

and Walsh versus Cavey' was heard in the Lord Chief Justice's court by Lord Parker, Lord Justice Diplock and Mr. Justice Widgery, on the morning of July 7. Dr. Ian Brownlie, a barrister who is also a Fellow of Wadham College and has taken other civil liberties cases, appeared for seven of the demonstrators; Nicolas Walter appeared in person; and Michael Worsley appeared for the Brighton police.

Within a few minutes, it was clear that the appeal was lost. Almost as soon as Dr. Brownlie had begun speaking he was interrupted by Lord Parker, and throughout his speech he was frequently and frivolously interrupted by both Lord Parker and Lord Justice Diplock. The judges were plainly prejudiced, in the strict sense of the word—that is, they had pre-judged the case.

Dr. Brownlie nevertheless made a long speech on legal lines. He argued that the charge against the demonstrators did not cover their offence, which would have been better covered by some other charge. The section of the Ecclesiastical Courts Jurisdiction Act of 1860 used against them referred not only to 'riotous, violent or indecent behaviour' but also to those 'who shall molest, let, disturb, vex or trouble, or by any other unlawful means disquiet or misuse any preacher . . . or any clergyman' in a church or churchyard whether during a service or not; the inference was that all the other offences are not indecent, and that indecent behaviour is to be distinguished from a mere disturbance of a service. There is indeed another statute altogether—the Places of Religious Worship Act of 1812—which has a section referring to those who 'wilfully and maliciously or contemptuously disquiet or disturb any meeting, assembly or congregation of persons assembled for religious worship', and this would apply much more directly to the behaviour of the demonstrators; but the maximum penalty is only a £40 fine! (He didn't mention the Toleration Act of 1688, which has an almost identical section.)

He then argued that indecency is something more than merely improper or offensive, and that none of its meanings as used in other statutes applied to the behaviour of the demonstrators. Unfortunately

most of the cases he then quoted showed that in the past courts have found virtually any kind of interruption of a church service to be indecent behaviour. It was clear at the end of his speech, even if it hadn't been at the beginning, that there wasn't a chance.

Nicolas Walter abandoned most of his speech, in view of the attitude of the judges, and made a short speech on practical lines. He argued that a reasonable man would not consider that the demonstrators' behaviour had been indecent. As an example, the Brighton police and magistrates had not done so, since the demonstrators had been arrested and remanded on a charge of riotous behaviour, and it was not until four weeks later that a charge of indecent behaviour was brought, and even then it was at first combined with one of riotous and violent behaviour. It was agreed that all he had done in the church was to say, 'Oh you hypocrites, how can you use the word of God to justify your policies?', and if the law said that was indecent, then the law was an ass.

Mr. Worsley simply produced a dictionary, which gave many meanings of indecency, some of which covered the demonstrators' behaviour. Both Dr. Brownlie and Nicolas Walter replied that while a dictionary gave every possible definition of a word, the High Court should give a single one. After a brief consultation with his colleagues, Lord Parker gave judgement dismissing the appeal. A long summary was published in *The Times Law Report* on July 8; the substance was that behaviour is indecent because of its context, and in the context of a church service any form of interruption is indecent.

Jim Radford announced immediately after the hearing that there would be a series of demonstrations, marches and meetings in Brighton on Sunday, July 16. In the meantime, anyone who wants to know more about the case can get a pamphlet called *Indecency in Church* (6d. plus postage) from Freedom Press; and anyone who wants to help Jim Radford's and Nicolas Walter's wives and children can contribute to the Welfare Fund—both care of Jeanne Smythe, 68 Hewitt Road, London, N.8.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

### POT FOR CONSENTING ADULTS

This letter is reprinted from the 'Guardian':

Your leading article on the Chichester drugs trial (July 3) misses every point in sight. The two issues—whether the sentences were excessive, and whether dangerous drugs should be illegal—are not 'better kept separate', because they are not separate issues at all but two aspects of the same issue, which is whether people should be sent to prison for possessing, using, or allowing other people to use drugs which have been labelled 'dangerous'.

The Rolling Stones case, far from being 'almost totally irrelevant to our legal and social attitudes to drug-taking', is a direct result of these attitudes. Once the Dangerous Drugs Acts were passed, some well-known people—probably in a jazz, folk or pop music group, or in a Left-

wing political movement—were bound to be imprisoned for a drugs offence, as has been happening to unknown people for a long time.

The real question is simply whether people should be punished for using certain drugs on themselves in private houses, however dangerous the effects may be. If so, then the whole crazy apparatus of civil servants, Customs officials, agents provocateurs, police squads, search warrants, forensic analysis, magistrates, judges, juries, handcuffs, prison, sensational stories in the gutter press, and so on, becomes necessary to keep the system going. If you will the end, you will the means.

Large sentences will be thought too severe, and small ones too lenient, but if there is a criminal offence there must be sentences, and some of them are

bound to be large. Scientific information and medical opinion about the effects of legal and illegal drugs are interesting but are still totally irrelevant to this basic question of using the criminal law against private behaviour.

I am not personally involved in this question, because I do not use any drugs which are banned by law. This is partly because I don't wish to be removed from the world of reality (which lets out heroin, cocaine, morphine, and LSD), partly because I don't wish to be put to sleep or kept awake (which lets out barbiturates and amphetamines), and partly because I don't smoke (which lets out cannabis, a drug which seems much superior to tobacco for those who do smoke).

And yet I am personally involved, because I have many friends who do take amphetamine pills or smoke cannabis, I have often allowed them to do so in my house, and I intend to go on doing so. It wouldn't occur to me to try to stop them (any more than I would try to stop male friends from being homosexuals or female friends from getting abortions), because it's none of my damned business what other people do to themselves.

If the law says that my friends and I are committing a crime which deserves up to ten years' imprisonment, then the law is not so much an ass as a complete bloody fool, and it's about time people began to realise it. If there is 'no

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# WHAT PRICE FREE ART?

Scene: A bookshop in London.

Enter Mr. John Calder.  
John Calder: I've brought in copies of the leaflet for my Free Art Legal Fund Campaign. I hope you'll co-operate by displaying them prominently and persuading customers to contribute to the fund. We must fight censorship wherever we find it. The Last Exit case is the most important, but there will be others.

Bookshop Manager: Certainly. It's a great idea. We're all in favour of freedom for the arts here.

J.C.: Fine. Fine. But what is this I see? Copies of the American edition of The Theatre and its Double. You know very well that I have the rights on all Artaud's writings. On no account should you be selling this book. I've a good mind to take you to Court over this.

B.M.: You tried to stop us selling the Artaud Anthology, also. Yet you yourself haven't published any Artaud yet. This is a simple case of attempted censorship. You are preventing the public from becoming familiar with the works of an important author. This is not freedom. You say you are in favour of Free Art. How does it apply here?

J.C.: This is quite different. I certainly intend to publish Artaud's works (thinks: and will therefore gain credit and esteem as an avant-garde publisher, the first to make Artaud's work available in England, and my fame will resound throughout the land).

B.M.: But you haven't published him yet. You have been sitting on these rights for three years now and there is no sign that you will publish an Artaud book even in the near future. In this way you have effectively banned Artaud's works from Britain. Now, Mr. Calder, let me ask you this. If we go on selling the American editions and you take us to Court in an effort to stifle freedom in the arts and to stop us selling these books, may we draw upon your Free Art Legal Campaign funds in order to fight this case of attempted censorship? Are you really in favour of freedom in the arts or only in favour of freedom for John Calder?

The above is a slightly fictional account of a type of incident that has been repeated in various London bookshops recently. The managers and/or owners of eight or nine bookshops in London

ANARCHISTS everywhere will be bitterly disappointed to learn that for years now all their criticisms, everything they have stood for, have been founded on a false premise. For at last it has been revealed (to those of us that didn't suspect it already) that our society is basically okay, that the wrongs and injustices that crop up from time to time will pass, and that everybody is getting richer, happier and sweeter-natured. Mount Sinai, the traditional venue for this kind of revelation, was already booked up, so instead the good news was dispensed over the Home service on June 25. There to do the dispensing were Pamela Hansford Johnson, David Stafford-Clark and others. In the chair was C. H. Rolph, professional legal-eagle and vertebra in the wobbling spine of the satirical socialist weekly, the *New Statesman*.

Pamela Hansford Johnson is a well-known novelist and is married to Lord Snow. These two facts are a fair pointer to (a) the present state of the novel in England, and (b) the present state of Lord Snow. Pamela went to the Moors Murder trial and was aghast to find that Ian Bradley and Myra Hindley were devotees of the works of de Sade, and that the Marquis' sadistic lubrications were all too easily obtainable in England's green and pleasant, etc.

The dark satanic mills of her mind ground into action, finally producing the thought (if what follows is worthy of the name) that perhaps our society is too permissive; perhaps corrupting influences are not sufficiently supervised; perhaps people—Brady, Hindley and the rest of us—are not being protected from nastiness as effectively as the common good demands.

Never stopping for a moment to consider the corrupting influence her own turgid fictional outpourings might have had on countless young persons with a budding interest in good literature, she at once dashed off a new volume entitled *On Iniquity* in which she made public her concern for our moral well-being.

## Anything Goes

This book created such a stir among people who are stirred by books of this kind that even the BBC got to hear about it, and decided to turn it into a one-shot panel game. With customary good taste the programme was put on late (10.10 p.m.) so that those of us who should be in bed by then would not be exposed to such raw terms as 'murder', 'sex', 'council-flats', etc.

'Is too much allowed?' demanded the fearless *Radio Times*. 'Is violent crime an index to the Moral State of Society?' demanded C. H. Rolph, the fearless vertebra. 'Come on, then, tell me!' demanded the fearless listener. Some chance. It seems that the society they were all so worried about is just so damn obsessed with sex that our rescuers couldn't talk about anything else in the whole 40 minutes of the programme.

David Stafford-Clark, the psychiatrist, who at one time had the reputation of being the only person, apart from Bill and Ben the Flowerpot Men, to have ever talked sense on British television, made an attempt at coming to grips with the subject and its implications, but then gave up and decided to swim with the sexy current; his main contribution from that point on was an anecdote along the lines of 'How I replied in a sensible and adult fashion when my four-year-old daughter asked for the loan of mummy's diaphragm'.

Sex having now ousted all other contenders, everybody jumped in with little stories which illustrated how wise and mature they were in this respect, and how, in the long run, young people came to recognize this and to be grateful that they lived in a world where the older generation was so understanding.

A headmaster named Barnes said that a great deal of Evil threatened the pupils in his school and that he, 'in the rôle of the educator', was duty-bound to protect them from it. Predictably, it turned out

or the South of England have ventilated their views of censorship through the copyright laws.

They point out that they are not attacking John Calder only, though it is his hypocrisy over the Free Art Legal Fund Campaign which brought this matter to a head. They condemn all publishers who prevent important titles from being available in Britain, thus delaying the spread of new ideas and new styles of writing often for many years.

Penguin Books have apparently objected to the import of *City Lights Journal* No. 3 on the grounds that they hold the copyright on *MacBird* which appears in it. This means that all the other material in the *Journal* is denied to a British reader, including plays by Julian Beck, Alexandro Jodorowsky and Bob Burleson, poems by Allen Ginsberg, Michael McClure, Charles Olson and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, a major section from India on the Hungry Generation, and an article on Apollinaire's Great Whitman Happening by Roger Shattuck.

An even more annoying ban is on one of the issues of the magazine *Locus Solus*, because it contains one poem on which John Calder owns the copyright, though he has not published it yet.

Examples of a book which is virtually banned from this country because a

British publisher owns the copyright and has either not published it or allowed it to go out of print, include John Cage's *Silence*, William Burroughs' *The Soft Machine*, the complete Artaud works (although Calder has at last given way on the *City Lights Artaud Anthology* and admits he doesn't have these rights), Ferlinghetti's *Coney Island of the Mind*, Borges' *Labyrinths* and many more.

The nine owners/managers say: We believe that the public should be free to purchase all books in any edition as soon as they are published. They do not think this would be detrimental to authors, for the author gets his percentage whatever edition is sold. They feel that all readers should come to the support of their campaign, for it is essentially a declaration in favour of the freedom to read.

HUBERT SELBY SENIOR.

P.S. As from July 10, Marion Boyars of Calder and Boyars has admitted that C and B haven't got the British rights on John Cage's *Silence* and that therefore any British bookseller is at liberty to sell it. Yet the representatives of Calder and Boyars have repeatedly asked for this book to be taken off the shelves and sent back, threatening proceedings unless this were done.

H.S.S.

that Evil was Sex and that his way of protecting young people was to rip up any 'pornography' that a 'permissive society' let them get hold of.

There were occasional interjections from a Mr. Malleon who directs research into student problems at London University, but all that could be gleaned from what he said was that he was probably asthmatic and almost certainly half-asleep. Everybody chatted innocuously about permissiveness, pornography, dirt, sex—which, as we well know, all amount to the same thing.

It never occurred to anybody to challenge the authoritarianism of the title: 'Is too much allowed?'; to point out that pornography is not a thing, but a state of mind to which authoritarian societies are inevitably prone; to note that permissiveness is just the latest credo and that as long as we continue to talk in terms of 'permitting' none of us are really free.

Their total acceptance of the *status quo*, while supposedly giving it a critical once-over, was reminiscent of Dilys Powell writing about Strick's *Ulysses* in the *Sunday Times*: 'We should be grateful to the GLC for giving us the chance to see it'. In other words, question nothing and be grateful for what you get.

The 'moral state of society' for people with minds of this calibre is no more than the sum of the population's sexual habits; social and economic equality, non-sexual personal relationships, the rôle of the individual—irrelevancies of this kind are to be passed over in silence. All this smug shower could tell us was how much sex we should be allowed to have. Stafford-Clark, the only member of the panel with any proven intelligence, may have been repelled by their condescending public-mindedness and their pitiful attempts at an imitation of fashionable fake liberalism; if so, it's a pity he couldn't have left sex alone for a moment to say so.

The party reached an awkward point at summing-up time because there was a total of exactly nothing to sum up. So

instead they all told us what they thought of present-day society. Pamela, it turned out was a 'social optimist'; she felt that things weren't too desperate and that the amount of control society was subject to at the moment, properly and responsibly used (as it always is) would probably keep us from perdition.

Again Stafford-Clark might have disagreed, but didn't say so and contented himself with a vague plea for 'greater understanding'. The headmaster replayed his record about the rôle of the educator and this woke up Mr. Malleon, who gasped briefly in the direction of the microphone. C. H. Rolph agreed that, all in all, society wasn't really doing too badly as it was. Amid sighs of relief all round we got back to our interrupted reading of de Sade.

JOHN THURSTON.

## Pot for Consenting Adults

Continued from page 1

straight progressive ticket for people to vote on the issue of drug-taking, and if there is 'no principle of liberal thought to support a man's right to damage or destroy himself', then it's about time liberals and progressives began to say just what they do believe in.

If the Chichester drugs trial makes it clear exactly who is in favour of individual freedom and who is not, then it might have some use, but it will be a pity if the *Guardian* is on the wrong side.

Yours faithfully,  
NICOLAS WALTER.

WE GO TO PRESS ON MONDAY. LATEST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF MSS., LETTERS, MEETING NOTICES IS THE MONDAY IN EACH WEEK OF PUBLICATION.

## Anarchist Federation of Britain

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

- 1967 AFB CONFERENCE. Oct. 6, 7, 8. For details of London venue and proposals for agenda apply to LFA.
- 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).
- Literature seller at Speakers' Corner, Sunday afternoons.
- JULY 16 Sebastian Scragg 'George Orwell on Anarchism'
- HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 138 Pennymead, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.
- July 22. LFA at Harlow. Public meeting, leafletting, selling, social. Write for information.
- July 19. Meeting at Moot House, The Stow, Harlow, 7.30 p.m. Bob Barltrop on 'The Decline of the Socialist Ideal'.
- LEWISHAM. Locations of meetings temporarily altered because of new baby. Further details of meetings from 61b Granville Park, S.E.13 or ring LEE 8879.
- 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, Middlesex.
- 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 Room's, now at 13 Savernake Road, London, N.W.3.
- REGIONAL FEDERATIONS AND GROUPS
- ALTRINCHAM ANARCHIST YOUTH GROUP. Get in touch with Stephen Richards, 25 North

- and Maureen Richardson.
- PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Contact J. Hill, 79 Underlane, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon.
- READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.
- ROCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Eryl Davies, 22 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester. Fortnightly meetings.
- SLOUGH. Contact Sid Rawle, 4 Hillperton Road, Slough, Bucks.
- SOUTH EAST ESSEX ANARCHIST GROUP. We would love to hear from fellow-sympathisers in area. All enquiries to M. Powell, 7 Lingercroft, Basildon, Essex.
- SOUTH WEST MIDDLESEX ANARCHIST GROUP meets alternate Thursdays and Saturdays, on Eel Pie Island. Contact P. J. Goody, 36 Norman Avenue, Hanworth, Middlesex.
- TROWBRIDGE PEACE ACTION GROUP. Contact P. Weston, Chivele, Butts Lane, Keevil, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Meetings every Tuesday 7.30 p.m. Friends' Meeting House (opp. Bus Station).
- 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 PROPAGANDA GROUP. Gerry Bree, 16 Faulkner Square, Liverpool, 8. Meetings weekly. 'Freedom' Sales—Pier Head, Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings.
- MANCHESTER ANARCHIST GROUP. Secretary: Dave Poulson, 9 Boland Street, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14.
- 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.)
- SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST FEDERATION
- CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP, SWANSEA

- ANARCHIST GROUP. All correspondence to: Julian Ross, 11 Wellfield Close, Bishopston, Swansea.
- PROPOSED GROUPS
- NORTH EAST ESSEX. Would readers interested in proposed group write to P. Newell, 'Maybush', Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex.
- ELTHAM. 'Sons of Durrutti' Group. Get in touch with T. Liddle, 83 Gregory Crescent, London, S.E.9.
- BIRKENHEAD. Please get in touch with G. Woodhouse, 59 Cambridge Road, Woodchurch, Birkenhead.
- MUCH HADHAM, HERTS. Get in touch with Leslie Riordan, High Street, Much Hadham, Herts.
- ROCHDALE. Please contact Richard Crawford, 4 Hargreaves Street, Sudden, Rochdale.
- ABROAD
- AUSTRALIA. Federation of Australian Anarchists, P.O. 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. Anyone interested in Direct action/anarchy contact G. J. Nasir, 606 Matheson Avenue, Winnipeg, 17, Manitoba.
- BELGIUM: LIEGE. Provos, c/o Jacques Charlier, 11 Avenue de la Laiterie, Sclessin-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.
- GROUP-(TREASON). Australian Anarchist, c/o Melbourne University Union or A.R. Giles Peters, c/o same.



# Talking Points AFTER CND

CND IS DEAD—of course we know; yes, but with CND the whole radical upsurge is gone—the anarchist revival is over.

How often have you heard it said? How often have you yourself said it or thought it?

After Suez/Hungary, those who were trying to publicize the vision of a change in the nature of the system were faced with an almost total dearth of activity on the part of the conventional left. There was therefore no mass movement at the heart of which radicals might propagate something more revolutionary.

CND therefore had to act to create for itself a milieu in which its ideas would be considered and, more still, those who advocated libertarian ends had to resort to direct action to further CND's ends by means that conflicted with the nature of CND.

The first manifestation of the regrowth of radicalism was therefore an intensification among 'intellectual' propagandists of activity, rather than an intensification of it in terms of mass resistance to authority.

The effect of this is to encourage many people to consider direct action for more purely economic or piecemeal issues. One hears of mothers using DA to get roads shut off in which it is safe for their children to play; one hears of villages using DA to limit the traffic through them; there was, some years back, a

strike of the women workers in a Clerkenwell factory for equal pay whose pickets sat across the gateway.

The direct action movement against the Bomb, however little it succeeded in the issue for which it fought (an issue which could not anyway be won short of social-revolution), succeeded to a fantastic extent in bringing radical activity into the context of British politics.

One need not think of King Hill, LSE, the Gypsy campaign or any contemporary more revolutionary use of DA, one need only think of the revival of the Civil Liberties Council so that it now has fire enough in its bellies to protest about the way soldiers are kept in the army, the way gypsies are treated and many such other formerly ignored issues as well as issues (such as the majority jury verdict law) which stem directly from a social-democratic government.

With the growth of widespread activity on such issues it is possible for libertarian radicals to put their propaganda in terms of published argument to a far greater extent than formerly. It is obvious that it demands far less sacrifice to publish libertarianism, than to use small minority direct action to illustrate the case.

There would seem to be an inverse ratio between the proliferation of new libertarian and radical propagandist journals and the promotion of direct action as a propagandist rather than a resistance technique. But, given the fact that it is used as a resistance weapon, DA makes possible the spread of libertarianism as a theory to a degree that was impossible eight years ago.

The revival is therefore as yet by no means finished.

## Through the Anarchist Press

### BARCELONA

From the bottom of a mine to the bottom of a jail

FROM OVIEDO, N. Spain, the agency 'Europa-Press' reported to *La Vanguardia Español* (day 28) that on the Sunday, the eleven miners from the 'Llamas' mine, who stayed underground for six days, were taken to the prison in Oviedo, and that after being examined in the hospital, were placed under the care of a court as 'deemed responsible for various crimes'. It added that it was able to be proven that conditions in the mines of Asturias are normal (save in the Lloris mine, where only 83 miners reported for work. The 63 absent are undergoing sanctions imposed by the company, namely the suspension of work and wages until next Friday.).

### MADRID

Jail for an opponent of the Referendum

The Public Order Tribunal has seen the case brought against the student Ramón García Corralero for 'non-peaceful demonstration' and 'illegal propaganda'. He is accused of being the author of some clandestine leaflets distributed before December 10 in Madrid, inviting people to declare themselves against the Referendum.

He has been condemned to 2 years and 3 months' imprisonment and fined 15,000 pesetas.

### REPRESSION IN CATALONIA

#### Barcelona

Students on the general courses on Philosophy, Letters, and Foreign Languages at the University of Barcelona, were banned from attending class in February. The University authorities closed the doors to the students so that they should not meet again as, at midday, they had held an 'unauthorized assembly'.

Proceedings are being taken against two students, named Tarragó Navarro and Alqueras, accused of illegal assembly on December 9. They have been accorded provisional liberty.

Two students, Jaime Carbonell Sevarroja and Juan Frigola, both of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, are accused of sticking posters on the University precincts. The second has been detained.

The Hispano-Olivetti Company has suspended seven workers, two of them women, from their work and their wages, while proceedings against them are being prepared. The company is also holding sanctions against 250 workers for three days for having attended a meeting. They are threatened with sacking should it happen again.

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### CUBA

The warehouse of the Timber Corporation in Habana was recently destroyed by fire. The authorities claim that the act was intentional, according to the information of Sr. Gustavo Alberto López Amador on his arrival at Miami. Several boats and a group of houses adjacent to the warehouse were totally destroyed, and more than 100 cars parked nearby were severely damaged, including one belonging to the Director of the Corporation. Agents of the State Security Department were soon on the scene, and arrested the night-watchmen, those responsible for the warehouse, and others acting on the premise that the fire was the work of a saboteur. Losses are estimated at more than half a million dollars.

### 150,000 sacked in Red Cuba

A hundred and fifty thousand Cubans seeking permission to leave the country have been sacked and many of them have been sent to work in the forced labour camps known as 'Military Units for the Help of Production', according to the information of Enrique Varas Diaz, a mechanical worker from the town of Marianao, arriving in exile on one of the Varadero-Miami planes.

### Measures against the workers of Cuba

A new resolution from the Ministry of Labour regulating the salaries of the working population, is considered by the workers as another attack on the working class, since they are obliged to work harder and earn less.

The new move, called in the press a 'Collective Salary', spoils the advantages hitherto gained by the workers in Cuba. The 'collective salary' will mean that the Cuban worker will take home 74 dollars per month, more or less, according to his quota. Previously, Cuban workers earned a salary in proportion to the amount of work they did, which was always more than that which they will now get under the scheme imposed by Castro and his bunch.

existing in the island today.

Translated by BOB BATER.

(From *Le Combat Syndicalista, Boletín de Información Libertaria* (Cuban Libertarian Movement in Exile), *L'Agitazione del Sud*.)

## Busy Day in Brighton

MORE DETAILS of demo on Sunday, July 16: The public meeting on Vietnam outside the Brighton church at noon (when the congregation come out), which is intended partly to challenge members of the congregation to discuss with us why we did what we did and why they felt outraged by it, will be followed by a march to Brighton Town Hall (where the magistrates' court is). We shall then have another meeting outside the Town Hall—about the civil liberties aspects. There may also be an indoor meeting in the evening. Nic and Jim, the two sentenced to jail, will then go to surrender themselves at midnight when the bail runs out. There will thus be virtually a whole day of activities in Brighton on the 16th.

Bernard Miles —

## 'Girls Tell of Midnight Visits by Headmistress's Son'—News of the World

TO THE WORLD'S WARS was added a parachutist invasion of the Congo, inexplicably sparked off by the mid-air abduction of Moïse Tsombe to Algeria. Fighting started in Nigeria, burst out in Hong-Kong, sporadically erupted on the Suez Canal, dragged on in Vietnam, cooled down in Aden and was witnessed in Genocide (formerly Grosvenor) Square. . . .

FOR THE ALTERNATIVE, of making love, it was a mixed week. An optimist in *Peace News* (Box 811) wants uninhibited friendships (within the law). The law making unillegitimate homosexual conduct between consenting adults in private passed another of its stages after high-level debates in the House of Commons during which members (Labour and Conservatives) made allegations about each other's virility and sexual prowess. Sir Gerald Nabarro told his constituents, 'There is mounting evidence of depravity in the Labour Party. Labour city councillors in Birmingham advocate legalized brothels. Red lamps to replace red flags. Labour Members of Parliament back loosening of homosexual laws. Labour Members of Parliament peddle abortion. A Labour Home Secretary failed miserably to prevent drug and dope trafficking which erects as idols pop singers, junkies and the like. We urgently need a Government of moralists. I am disgusted by the depraved trend in the Socialist Party, presided over by Mr. Wilson, and it will cost him dear at the next General Election. The long hair of Mr. Wilson's intellectuals on the back benches will strangle him.' . . .

IN HOLLAND, where there is no legislation against homosexuality, two Catholic homosexuals celebrated their friendship and partnership, and the birthday of a mother, with Mass in a Rotterdam church when they exchanged rings. The chairman of the Dutch association for homosexuals said he was not happy about what newspapers described as 'the wedding'. He said 'the necessity for such a ceremony suggests that they are not sure of one another. Given the fact that anyone has the right to do things which

make him happy, we are not generally in favour of this sort of thing.' . . .

A WOMAN OF 52 lost a claim in Rio de Janeiro for financial compensation from a man who abandoned her after they had lived together for 30 years. 'Love is paid for only by love.' . . .

MR. MICHAEL ENGLISH, MP for West Nottingham, withdrew (on the insistence of Crufts?) his statement that George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, deserved the first prize for spaniels at Crufts' dog show for his Common Market speech. . . .

A CORRESPONDENT (female) in the *Chelsea Post* writes: 'Many people must be alarmed and horrified at the spectacle this week of hundreds of little pubescent girls rushing madly like bitches on heat to get a glimpse of the Monkees. To the majority, of course, the incident is harmless, but there must certainly be a minority for whom this is the first step on the ladder downwards to promiscuity, drug-taking, abortion, VD and a life of misery.' . . . A married man of 33 was fined £25 on two charges of indecently assaulting two girls who had gathered in a crowd of 200-300 to see the Monkees at their Kensington hotel. There were reports that several teenagers were stranded after midnight after waiting for the Monkees. Two readers write and thank that guardian of public morals—the *News of the World* for prizes of tickets to the Monkees concert at Wembley. . . .

THE N OF W PUBLICIZES the Dutch homosexual 'wedding'; an article on the Baby-Yar atrocities showing a picture of a naked woman without pubic hair (for the sake of decency); information on a campaign to bring back the rope, sponsored by Duncan Sandys, MP; an attack on the Bill on Homosexuality entitled 'The Charter for Corruption' by Esmond Wright, MP, with a picture showing Leo Abse (the bill's sponsor) in a fancy waistcoat; and an article on holidays in Turkey 'Where Parties mean Orgies'. Their editorial headed 'They are all talking about us' says, 'The *News of the*

*World* however, does not believe that even in our tolerant society the mass of ordinary men and women want to give the go-ahead to the drug-taker and the homosexual. . . . We shall continue to speak out loud and clear, confident that we are speaking for the mass of ordinary decent men and women in Britain today.' . . .

SEVEN CONSTABLES of the Birkenhead Police were remanded in custody at Birkenhead Magistrates' Court charged with garage breaking, receiving and theft. . . .

AN UNEMPLOYED HINDU at Hampstead, charged with being drunk and disorderly, said he deliberately got drunk in the hope of being deported. He said, 'I didn't come to this country to be a servant of the English.' The chairman of the magistrates fining him £2 said he must 'try something else. . . . This offence doesn't merit deportation.' . . .

THE FIRST TWO APPLICATIONS to the European Commission of Human Rights by Roy and Alice Fletchers, who are serving life sentences after being convicted of the murder of a child in Birmingham, England, in 1961, have been ruled inadmissible. Howard Cheney's challenge of income tax and surtax assessments, because he claimed that money from the tax was being unlawfully spent on nuclear weapons, was dismissed with costs in the High Court. The Judge claimed that the assessments were legally made under the relevant Finance Act. Howard Cheney is a farmer and owner of a Birmingham manufacturing business and is a supporter of CND and the Committee of 100. . . .

WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION per head of the population was lower in 1965 than in 1964 according to the United Nations Yearbook. World population increased between 1960-65 at an annual average of 1.9% and world food produced only increased by 1%.

JON QUIXOTE.

## Summer Project in Harlow

THE HARLOW Anarchist Federation ('Harlow may be the only town in the country in which the most active and probably the largest political youth group is composed of Anarchists.'—*Harlow Gazette*, 7.7.67) is holding a public meeting in the Town Centre on Saturday, July 22 at 2 p.m., leafletting, literature selling, bubble blowing and speakers. The Harlow Group needs speakers and requests assistance for selling literature and welcome as many people as can get to Harlow.

Since this is an attempt to talk to people they don't want 'slogans and rantcrowd uniforms to get in the way of conversation'.

HAF had very good advance publicity on this in the local papers.

Their next project is on August 26/27 when they will have a stall in the Town Show (attended by 100,000 people last year). On that occasion they will give away FREE lemonade, balloons, leaflets and FREEDOM.

Lots of help needed next Saturday. So go and stir it up. There is a social in the evening. R.

# Better!

WEEK 27, JULY 8, 1967:

Expenses: 27 weeks at £90: £2430

Income: Sales and Subs.: £1875

DEFICIT: £555

Hartfield: D.M. £2; Somerset: R.L. 5/-; Bath: J.C. 7/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.\* 2/-; J.L.\* 3/-; Maidstone: R.E. £1; Birmingham: M.B. 5/-; California: J.C. 17/6; St. Cloud, Minn.: M.A. £7/17/6; Bury St. Edmunds: C.P.\* 6/-; Oxford: M.B. 10/-; Ipswich: W.D. 10/-; London, W.2: W.G. £1; Cheltenham: L.K.W.\* 10/-; Hartfield: O.M. 8/2; Manchester: R.C. 10/-; Stanmore: M.C. 10/-; Londonderry: I.B. 10/-; London, N.W.6: B.S. 10/-; Bristol: N.P. £1/13/-; Sheffield: R.B. 10/-; London, E.5: G.H. 1/-; Oregon: R.H. 10/6; Chelsea, Mass.: J.M. 17/6; Oxford: S.M. 2/6; London, N.7: A.W. £1/10/-; Worthing: M.B. 10/-; Chalfont St. Peter: W.C. £5; London, S.E.10: W.E. 4/-; Hamilton: D.N. 10/-; London: W.L. £10.

TOTAL: £39 9 8

Previously Acknowledged: £614 4 1

1967 Total to Date: £653 13 9

\*Denotes Regular Contributor.

## The Police Must Answer!

THIS IS NOT the first time that we had the displeasure of printing accounts of 'police violence'. But this, brought to our office by a public-spirited citizen, is perhaps the most vicious example of such brutality.

At this demonstration (July 2) several of our comrades were arrested. We are also printing a letter this week from one of our readers describing the false charges against Terry Liddle and the sentence extracted by the police from the magistrates where the testimony of two citizen witnesses were dismissed in favour of police evidence.

We have no illusions about the police. Usurping their social duties like directing the traffic or escorting old ladies across the road their job involves them in dehumanising violence. Thugs they are whether their 'work' is sanctioned by the State or not.

### I SAW THIS

On Sunday, July 2 as we were going down Brook Street on our way home after protesting at the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square over the war in Vietnam, a young fellow who was walking along the side of the road when two policemen told him to get on the pavement. Before he had a chance to get on the pavement the policemen set about him punching and kicking him to the ground.

Pleased with what they had done they walked off and left him clutching his stomach. A girl, about 16-17 years old, ran across the road to help him, but as she got near him six police thugs grabbed her and started kicking and punching her with the utmost brutality leaving her lying in the gutter. The numbers of two of the thugs are K873 and J780.

Then, on realising that quite a few people who saw the incident were not demonstrators, the six thugs hastily left the scene. A Doctor Wilson helped the girl up and wanted to call an ambulance, but the girl refused for personal reasons.

A group of people who crossed the road to help the boy and girl were also set about and were arrested. As for charges made of assaulting the police, the only assault that took place that day was on the part of the police.

'ROADSWEEPER'.  
(Name and address supplied.)

## TERRY LIDDLE IN SCRUBS

Dear Friends,

Following his Woolwich conviction (see FREEDOM, 24.6.67) Terry Liddle, founder member of Lewisham Anarchists, was again arrested in Genocide Square, July 2. He was sentenced, on uncorroborated police evidence, to one month in Wormwood Scrubs despite producing two witnesses to say no assault of the police took place.

The magistrate, Gradwell, is due to retire soon, and it was obviously overdue. It would be helpful to Anarchists

generally to collate information about magistrates' views, reactionary or otherwise. (Information welcome, c/o Lewisham Anarchists, see group addresses.)

Terry can receive any number of letters but can only write once a week: 10797, T. S. Liddle, H.M. Prison, Wormwood Scrubs, Du Cane Road, W.12.

It will be interesting to see what I, as the girl who started the sit-down, receives from our British justice on Tuesday, when up on the same charge.

HILARY LITTLE.



# Their Stuffing Knocked Out

DELEGATES at Aberdeen for the National Union of Railwaymen's Conference, voted against continuing the London freight terminal strike. The vote, an overwhelming one of 66 to 11, was taken after a motion calling for a national strike was defeated by 68 votes to 9. An alternative plan of snowballing the strike to all freight services was gaining support, but no motion on this came from the delegates.

The decision to call off the strike was a great disappointment to the London strikers. They had not only been defending their jobs, but also making a principled stand against private firms employing their own labour at the terminals. Although there are no redundancies, the 35 who were sacked are now to work under contract to the private firms, the number of jobs for railwaymen have once again been reduced. Even though the Railways Board have said that they will double their sheds at Stratford, this still means that the vast majority of the loading and unloading will be done by the employees of forwarding agents.

This strike, the first NUR official strike since the General Strike of 1926, was a 'stand made too late'. Over the years railwaymen have been demoralised by the way their industry has been axed. The plans for modernisation and efficiency have meant that many railwaymen have had to move house and many others have been made redundant. No stand has been made by the NUR, for although one hoped for and expected a longer strike, the

majority of the railwaymen had the stuffing knocked out long ago.

While admitting that the railways need modernising and making efficient, this need not be at the expense of the railwaymen, nor need the more profitable sides of the industry be handed over to private enterprise. Mr. Greene, the General Secretary of the NUR, said after the return-to-work decision, 'There are a lot of people that we ought to have been fighting for a long time ago. Lots of people had had to move their homes and take other jobs. And it was that we were arguing this principle too late.' But Mr. Greene, with his so-sorrowful countenance, has always been against 'fighting', and this is why railwaymen are in such a bad position today.

Mrs. Barbara Castle, the Minister of Transport, was 'delighted' with the return to work. She said: 'The

Railways Board and I now have the green light to press ahead with the expansion of the freight-liner service which can do so much to offset the contraction of jobs which has taken place.' One cannot believe such a statement, for in the first place they wanted to sack 35 men at Stratford, so what will happen at the other terminals?

Railwaymen are worried about the White Paper on British Transport, to be published shortly, and the plans for a National Freight Authority. Will this mean further sackings and further encroachment by private companies? The NUR leadership will do nothing to prevent that, for sure, but action like that of the 5,000 London railwaymen will. A stand was made too late, but the example shown in London should be taken up next time.

P.T.

## STANSTED AND MILITARY REQUIREMENTS

IN THE STANSTED argument, a great deal is being said about noise, increased road traffic in the area, dislocation of regional planning, loss of agricultural land, fall in house values, etc., but what is pretty certainly the key consideration is being neglected.

I have the White Paper of the Public Enquiry in front of me. It was presented to the Minister of Housing and Local Government by the man appointed to do the job, Mr. G. D. Blake, MA, FRICS, FAI, and he opens with his conclusions.

His first conclusion is that the local objections 'are formidable and justified' (p. 3.) Then on page 5 he offers the critical evidence that so few people to date seem to want to know about.

'Foulness, Dengie Flats and Gunfleet Sands are queered by the Shoeburyness firing range as is to some extent Sheppey. Evidence was given by Major General Egerton that removal of the range could not be expected. I have, of course, to accept that evidence although the main thing about Shoeburyness is that it is there. It is difficult to think of a less suitable location for an artillery firing range than the Thames estuary. The range constitutes a barrier to aircraft movement about 20 miles long, 7 miles wide and 60,000 feet high. It is likely that the height will be reduced to 35,000 feet which will not, however, help the position' (my italics—P.C.).

Major General Davis Boswell Egerton is the Director General of Artillery and his evidence about the Shoeburyness firing range reads as follows:

'It is not possible to move the range elsewhere' (p. 20).

The important thing here is that the Army's opinion is not considered as an opinion and looked at critically—it is automatically accepted as a veto. As Mr. Blake puts it, 'I have, of course, to accept that evidence'. He goes on to have a very good and effective dig at the Army nevertheless!

The Government's decision over Stansted is a fantastic example of authoritarianism run riot. The only people who want the new airport at Stansted are the Army and the AWRE (who are also deeply committed to Foulness and Shoeburyness) and various groups with vested interests involved.

Wilson has now whipped the Stansted decision through the House of Commons and Peter Masefield has told us that the first new buildings, costing some £100,000, will go up this autumn.

Predictably, conventional protest has failed again. Feeling is no less strong for all that. If this latest piece of military-political exhibitionism is to be defeated only direct action will do it and this means organised non-violent physical opposition to the actual building process itself. The answer to a bulldozer is farmers' tractors, lots of them.

There is one other matter that has been

allowed to pass without much notice. A great deal of argument has gone on about the distances and costs involved in getting people to the new airport wherever it is. Now five of the possible alternative sites are in the Thames Estuary—all of them commended by approaches over water.

Sir Milner Holland, QC, in his closing speech for the Ministry of Aviation, 'mentioned the suggestion that hovercraft on the Thames could serve Cliffe or Sheppey. He did not think it could make a significant contribution to handling a major airport's traffic' (p. 31).

How thick can a QC get? The present hovercraft service from Southampton to the Isle of Wight provided a 60 mph service in a 38-seater craft. The new craft now in production will carry 98 passengers (i.e. many more than the buses now serving Heathrow from Cromwell Road) and will be faster than 60 mph. Travel over water costs nothing in terms of the permanent way and we have two railway stations, Charing Cross and Waterloo, ideally situated as London terminals by the river. Hovercraft leave no wake, are highly manoeuvrable and, being amphibious, could proceed straight from the London terminal to the door of the aircraft. What on earth are we waiting for? Could it be that hovercraft production is so thoroughly earmarked for Vietnam (as in fact it is) that Sir Milner prefers not to know?

Mr. Blake's final opinion, the one that the Government has pleased to ignore, is as follows:

'In my opinion, a review of the whole problem should be undertaken by a committee equally interested in traffic in the air, traffic on the ground, regional planning and national planning. The review should cover military as well as civil aviation', p. 8 (my italics—P.C.).

PETER CADOGAN.

## GENERAL COUNCIL LOBBIED

THIS WEEK, the 'lay' General Council of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers has met to decide on the appeals against the disciplinary action by the Executive Council on the elected London officials and stewards.

Those appealing are Jack Rusca, sacked from office of London District Secretary; Charlie Thompson, John Smith and Taft Evans, suspended from the London management committee and Lou Lewis and Rolph Langdon, expelled stewards from the Myton dispute in the Barbican. The Executive took this action because these men supported the lads on the Myton and Sunley (Westminster) disputes.

On the first day of the General Council meeting, nearly 200 carpenters lobbied

# Freedom For Workers' Control

JULY 15 1967 Vol 28 No 21

## A CO-OPERATIVE OF FREE MEN

TOO MANY GROUPS on the 'left' talk about 'workers' control', or more exactly, their interpretation of it. Various schemes have been propounded, most hopelessly Utopian, many downright cranky, very few commercially viable. The 'Factory for Peace' has proved at least a partial failure and can hardly be regarded as a commercial success. How much really genuine 'workers' control' exists in it can be judged from recent happenings there (particularly the case of Walter Morrison).

It is pleasing therefore to be able to report the existence, and the success, a truly commercial success, of a workers' co-operative. The Aberdeen Taxi Owner-Drivers' Association or TODA, as it is known. Started by a handful of drivers, some of whom had been sacked by a city firm which had, at the time, a virtual monopoly of taxi services in Aberdeen, this group has become a serious rival to the aforementioned near-monopoly concern. And TODA consists not of pie-eyed Utopian leftists, but of ordinary working men, who have discovered, by themselves, that co-operation is the finest way to carry out their work, socially useful work. From the initial few, TODA has grown to an efficient, and completely democratic, firm with 36 drivers. Each driver is self-employed, owns his own car and keeps his takings for himself, paying into the central organisation each week a set sum—decided upon by all members—plus the hire of his radio equipment.

The facilities of the central office are shared equally between all members, by the simple method of giving each driver the orders in turn. A quite simple system of job allocation ensures no favouritism and, on an open circuit radio, very little gerrymandering could go on anyway. The use of radio in this way is a step, a small but encouraging step, towards the sophisticated communications envisaged by Alan Parker in his recent articles on the communications problems in democratic industry.

The Association is administered by a

committee of seven, who can be replaced by a majority vote any time. Here, indeed, is a practical application of the syndicalist principle of recallable officials. A close solidarity exists between drivers, although it would be gross over-praise to say that no personal friction exists. Even under democratic conditions people are still only human. But a driver who is sick will find his mates quick to assist financially, as grateful letters on the TODA notice-board can testify. Tasks are shared, one driver investigating the position re SET, another taking it upon himself to write various letters, etc., and all proceedings of TODA meetings are displayed in the muster room in order that everyone knows exactly what took place.

That this firm is a commercial success is undoubted. Drivers in TODA earn very considerably more than their privately employed fellow workers, which gives an indication of the profits which must be raked in by capitalist taxi operators. But with TODA, the money goes to the workers. The group also operates insurance schemes, giving members an opportunity to purchase their own homes, etc.

There are faults with TODA, at least from a socialist viewpoint. No attempt is made to push this type of organisation, even to other taxi-drivers, indeed membership has been closed at 36. This size limitation does have a good effect nevertheless, since it makes communication easier and group democracy more viable. But it is a pity that the propagandist outlook has not been thought of. These people prove that ordinary people, without bosses, without repressive authority, can run things, and run things better than the bosses, politicians and civil servants. Believe me, I know, for I work every weekend with TODA as a controller, and coming from the authoritarian environment, a typical capitalist set-up, into a free co-operative of free men is like coming from hell into heaven.

IAN SINCLAIR SUTHERLAND.

## MORE ON LIFT

Dear Comrades,

The NEC of the NUR has already been slated for betraying their members. But once again the full facts have not been put in the view of the public or even the members concerned. So I am about to support the NUR in their decision.

Prior to the opening of LIFT the handling was to be done by 68% for-

warding agents, and 32% by rail staff. (However the agreement has always been 20% forwarding agents, and 80% by rail staff.)

The BRB knew and expected a strike, but thought that it would fizzle out. However, not only to the surprise of the BRB, but also to the surprise of the NUR, it spread and it spread fast. The BRB then realised that they could not stab the railmen in the back and then expect to get away with it. So at a meeting between the BRB and the NUR on June 29, these were the proposals put forward by the BRB:

1. The work which has been given to the forwarding agents at this Terminal will still be done by them.

2. When the area of this Terminal is extended from 30,000 sq. ft. to 60,000 sq. ft., the new handling sheds will be supervised by forwarding agents on the condition that the handling of the containers will be done by railmen.

3. When the lease is expired of the now existing sheds, and the forwarding agent concerned wishes to re-lease, it will only be done so on the grounds that the handling of his containers will be done by rail staff.

This does not only concern LIFT at Stratford, but also at the nine other Terminals shortly to open. It was this which was put in front of the Annual General Meeting at Aberdeen. Which was why the strike had been called off.

Yours fraternally,

P.T.

Hanworth, Middx.

P.J.G.

## Contact Column

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

**Holiday for Children.** Weekend holiday offered for children in Kent. Deprived or hard-up, gardenless children welcome. Small contribution 8a Montacute Gardens, Tunbridge Wells.

**Flats and Houses Cleaned.** Simple redecoration and gardening jobs wanted. A. W. Uloth, 75 Templars Avenue, London, N.W.11.

**Come Home All is Forgiven.** Wanted news of whereabouts of Lewisham Anarchist banner arrested in Genocide Square. News to Lewisham Group.

**Accommodation—London.** Any kind of accommodation wanted from Aug./Sept./Oct. for anarchist-inclined student (male). No petty restrictions. Apply Paul Kidney, 1 West Hill Way, Totteridge, London, N.20.

**Wanted.** Financial help to establish anarchist press (or printing facilities) in Far East. Box 62.

**Wanted—Unfurnished—London.** Room(s). Willing to renovate and redecorate. John and Anne Beaumont, 91 Bishops Road, S.W.6. REN 8165.

**Dialectics of Liberation.** July 15-28. Roundhouse, Chalk Farm. Laing, Bateson, Carmichael, Marcuse, Goodman, Ginsberg, etc. 10/- per lecture, 7/6 students. Further details: The Roundhouse.

**Summer School.** Committee of 100. Aylesmore Farm, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwick. July 29-August 9. Details from John and April Majoram, 47 St. Alban's Road, Leicester.

**Broadmoor patient** soon to be released needs job. Replies to A.R. Reading Group.

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

**Accommodation.** Anarchist seeks accommodation in Camden Town or Islington. Box 50.

**Musicians.** Required for a South-East London Anarchist Social on September 23. Enquiries and quotes to Lewisham Anarchists address.

**Blues.** Piano player wishes to join/form R & B group. Please phone Eddie, 722 9188.

If you wish to make contact let us know.